

Prime Minister shrugs off polls, brings pressure to save reporter

Thatcher set to ride out 'media storm'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night signalled her determination to remain leader of the Conservative Party, brushing aside polls indicating that up to quarter of Tory MPs want her to quit before the next general election.

The uncompromising message from Cabinet ministers and the party hierarchy was that, despite unease among Conservative backbenchers over the poll tax and the economy, it was business as usual.

One senior Whitehall source said she was happy to ride out the storm and that ministers would continue to govern successfully.

The spate of rumours about her position were seen as nothing more than "media" inspired, with few leading Conservatives willing to comment publicly for fear of fuelling the speculation.

But Mr Cecil Parkinson attempted to rally the party

with a strong call to the Conservatives to stop arguing among themselves and start selling the community charge to the country.

Other ministers dismissed speculation about Mrs Thatcher's position as leader as a "media story" that was to be expected at a time when the party was trailing in the opinion polls and the economy was doing badly.

One said: "I think this whole leadership issue is rubbish... if anyone wants to challenge Mrs Thatcher, they can put themselves forward."

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am sure, if that happened, she would fight, and see them off."

Although ministers admit that the party is being buffeted by economic difficulties and problems over the poll tax, they believe the Prime Minister can weather the storm.

On Saturday Mrs Thatcher dismissed as "poppycock" any suggestion that she would stand down, and her supporters believe that if the economy improves and the problems over the community charge are eased, her position will improve.

They are also heartened by the lack of an obvious agreed successor and the idea of her going quietly after a visit by leading members of the Cabinet and party urging her to step down.

In his attempt to rally the Tories, Mr Parkinson, architect of the Conservatives' 1983 election victory, acknowledged the strength and charisma of Mr Michael Heseltine as a future party leader.

Mr Parkinson warned dissident Conservative MPs to stop arguing among themselves. He told "disgruntled" Tories that they were damaging the Government and aiding its enemies.

He admitted that there were a few disaffected people, particularly in marginal seats. "People feel a little insecure. But we're not helping anybody except our opponents by staring at our navels and trying to read the oracle. What we have got to accept is that Margaret is going to lead us into the next election."

The economy would come right, the poll tax was not going to change this year. "Let's get on with the business of explaining it, instead of indulging in wishful thinking," he said.

Though Mr Parkinson insisted that Mrs Thatcher

would lead the party into the next election, his highlighting of Mr Heseltine's qualities is significant from someone who is considered close to the Prime Minister.

Mr Parkinson admitted that Mr Heseltine had the second highest profile in the party. Asked if Mr Heseltine would make a good Prime Minister, Mr Parkinson said that, while he disagreed with Mr Heseltine's economic views, he had other attributes.

He said in an interview on TV-AM: "He is a very strong character. He has certainly got the ability to take major decisions and stick by them."

Mr Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, paid tribute to the skillful manner in which Mr Heseltine has conducted himself since resigning as Secretary of State for Defence. "He has very cleverly, during his term out of office, kept a high profile, been loyal, pitched in on the big issues, and has established a position for himself."

But Mr Parkinson pointed to the disadvantages of being portrayed as a future leader. "It is the kiss of death to be nominated as the next leader several years ahead of the election," he said.

He made his comments after polls in three newspapers indicated that about a quarter of Conservative backbenchers wanted Mrs Thatcher to quit before the next general election. The surveys showed a growing feeling of unease among Conservative MPs at the way the Prime Minister is leading the Government and point to Mr Heseltine as the clear favourite to succeed her as party leader.

Senior Conservatives are anxious that the party does not become railroaded by the media into a leadership crisis which does not yet exist.

Mr Heseltine, who has not been invited to assist the Conservative campaign in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election, yesterday denied a report that he had been invited to a secret meeting by a group of dissident MPs wanting him to launch an immediate leadership bid.

He said: "I have had no invitation and I would not go to such a meeting."

Asked about the leadership, he said: "I cannot see the circumstances in which I would challenge Mrs Thatcher. I have always believed she will take us into the next general election and that the Conservative Party will win it."



Chequers harmony: King Hussein of Jordan with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers yesterday, when the Prime Minister appealed for help in securing clemency for Farzad Bazoft, the journalist sentenced to death in Iraq.

Europe envoys in pleas for mercy

By Andrew McEwen
in London and
Christopher Walker
in Cairo

Amid anger and dismay over the death sentence passed by an Iraqi court against Farzad Bazoft, Britain yesterday brought international pressure to bear on President Saddam Hussein to show clemency.

The European Community interceded within hours at Britain's request, sending the three ambassadors in Baghdad of the Irish Republic, Italy and France to plead for the Observer reporter's life.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who held three hours of talks yesterday with King Hussein of Jordan at Chequers, asked to use his influence with the Iraqi

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leader. Whitehall sources said he would see what he could do. The King is regarded as President Saddam's closest

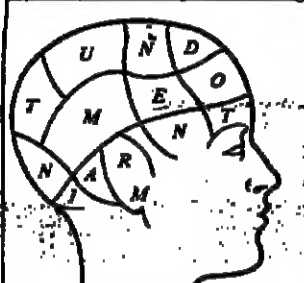
confidant and ally in the Arab world.

Britain also asked other countries to help. They were not named, but probably included Egypt, Jordan and Iraq in the Arab Co-operation Council, a new regional grouping of conservative Arab states.

The unusually large diplomatic effort reflected fears that the sentence might be carried out quickly, as no appeal is allowed in Iraq.

Mr Bazoft and Mrs Daphne Parish, the British nurse who was sentenced to 15 years, Continued on page 22, col 4

INSIDE



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● The Times Tournament of the Mind, with prizes of £5,000 and, for school teams, a computer, starts its second week page 13

● Today The Times special Monday morning sports coverage is on pages 23-30. Business News is on pages 36-40

● The conflict between the Church and industry will be addressed by a seminar this week, attended by top clerics and businessmen. On page 13 Provost David Edwards traces the controversy.

TOMORROW

● Our special 10-page report looks at the state of the law in the 1990s

England blank

Hopes of play starting yesterday in the Second Test between England and West Indies in Guyana, were dashed by rain. Page 25

Palace plight

Crystal Palace, who were beaten 9-0 by Liverpool last September, will play the FA Cup holders in the semi-finals, if Liverpool win a replay with QPR. Page 23, 26

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Lithuania on the brink of final break

From Anatol Lieven
Vilnius

Lithuania was on the point of declaring itself a sovereign state last night, after electing the first non-communist head of state in a Soviet republic and then voting to drop the words Soviet and Socialist from its name.

Dr Vitas Landsbergis, the chairman of the Lithuanian national movement, Sajudis, was elected President by the Supreme Soviet in Vilnius.

Observers here feel that a

break could mark the first official step in the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and believe that if Moscow cannot prevent it, the Kremlin may seek to discourage other republics by making Lithuania's path as difficult as possible.

In another historic step, immediately following Dr Landsbergis's election, Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, a leading communist member of Sajudis, and the present Deputy Prime Minister, was elected as interim Prime Min-

ister. Mrs Prunskiene thus becomes the first woman head of government in a previously communist state. She has won great public admiration for her determination in negotiations with Moscow and for

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her work in trying to strengthen Lithuania's economic independence.

A prepared declaration before the parliament stated that "the Supreme Soviet of the

Lithuanian republic proclaims the restoration of the sovereign rights of the Lithuanian state, interrupted in 1940". It says that the independence established in 1918 has never been annulled. "It remains in force and is the constitutional basis of Lithuanian statehood." The statement, which is of the greatest importance in view of President Gorbachev's warning that separation from the Soviet Union could lead to the removal of territories given to Lithuania by the Soviet Union in the

1940s, declares the territory and frontiers of the present Lithuanian republic inviolable, and refers to the declaration of the Helsinki conference in 1975, ruling out frontier changes in Europe.

The declaration cancels all legislative and executive powers in Lithuania vested in "any other state" on Lithuanian territory.

Accompanying declarations appeal to the international community and the other nations of the Soviet Union Continued on page 22, col 1

Pinochet bows out to boos

By Our Foreign Staff

Señor Patricio Aylwin was sworn in yesterday for a four-year term as Chile's first freely elected President after more than 16 years of right-wing military rule under General Augusto Pinochet.

General Pinochet had earlier left the presidential palace for the last time by the front door, to the cheers of some and boos of many others. His supporters shouted "Long live Pinochet" but others cried "Murderer" and obscene expressions as he drove off with his customary heavily armed military escort.

Most Latin American presidents did not attend Señor Aylwin's swearing-in at the National Congress building in Valparaíso to avoid greeting General Pinochet. But they were expected to greet Señor Aylwin later.

Pinochet hands over, page 22

Peres ready to end Israeli coalition

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

The Israeli Labour Party, after the Cabinet's failure yesterday to reach an agreement on potential peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo, indicated it would bring down the Likud-Labour coalition tomorrow by forcing a vote of confidence in the Knesset.

Against the background of riots in east Jerusalem, the Labour Party accused Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, of sabotaging the peace talks. The Cabinet had failed to meet a Labour ultimatum to respond positively to the peace plans formulated by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. The 1,300-member Labour Party Central Committee is to meet today to confirm the party's stand.

The fate of the coalition and the peace process hangs on four Orthodox religious parties which hold the Knesset balance of power. Mr Shamir

was said last night to have calculated that, even if he refused to be "pressured" into agreeing to US peace terms, Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, would be unable to form a "narrow coalition" with the religious parties. Most religious party leaders said yesterday they would opt

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for fresh elections rather than a new coalition. The last elections were in 1988.

The proposal for talks with a Palestinian team in Cairo has caused a series of coalition crises, with Labour pressing for a dialogue to end the Palestinian intifada, now in its 28th month. Likud, led by Mr Shamir, fears that the dialogue could open the way to talks with the PLO and an independent Palestinian state intent on destroying Israel.

Ashdown sets sights on party's political revival

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paddy Ashdown attempted yesterday to set off a revival in the political fortunes of the Liberal Democrats by claiming them to be the moral voice of the nation.

The Liberal Democrat leader received a rapturous reception at his party's spring conference in Cardiff by insisting that Mrs Thatcher's brand of Conservatism had run out of time. Events in Eastern Europe, he said, where people were calling for liberal democracy, showed that there

was no desire for socialism either in the 1990s.

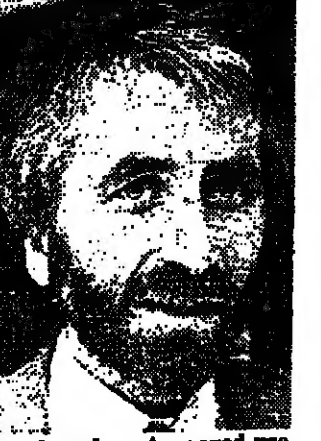
Attempting to capitalize on the Government's poll tax troubles and the controversy over Labour's "roof tax" alternative, Mr Ashdown said that they proved that local government was not safe in the hands of either party. "Ours is the party of local government."

He told his supporters: "This is a party that is in business and means to stay in business."

Conference reports, page 7

Militant recruits jobless through council centres

By Ray Clancy



Mr Coombes: Approved use of council facilities.

A national network of resource centres set up by Labour-controlled councils for the unemployed is being used as the campaign headquarters of the violent anti-poll tax demonstrations.

Branches of the All-Britain Poll Tax Federation, which is closely associated with Militant and other extreme left-wing groups, are using the centres as their campaign headquarters with the blessing of councillors. The Times has discovered.

In Liverpool the headquarters of the Merseyside Anti-Poll Tax Federation is occupying a shop provided rent-free by the Labour-controlled council from where demonstrations are organized and leaflets distributed. The shop, owned by

Liverpool City Council, was previously rented to a building contractor for £5,000 a year, but it now houses the North-west branch of the anti-poll tax federation.

Last night, Mr Keva Coombes, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said: "I was approached by the federation

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about the use of the shop which had been empty for some time. A motion was put to the council and approved.

"I see nothing wrong with some of Liverpool's empty buildings being used by groups of any political persuasion." He added that although the shop was

being provided rent-free, electricity, gas and telephone bills were being paid by the federation.

Elsewhere, the federation has been recruiting young unemployed people found at centres set up by councils, especially in Militant strongholds such as Manchester, Newcastle, Southampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In some cases national combines of workers meet regularly at these centres where they ally themselves to the federation and other groups supporting left-wing activities. The centres are used as postal addresses and meeting places. Telephone lines have been installed and anti-poll tax offices set up and run by unemployed people. "These centres Continued on page 22, col 8

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Inquiry call on child sex rituals

The NSPCC is to press for an investigation into the extent of child pornography and organized sex rings (Libby Jukes writes). In its annual report published today the society says it is particularly concerned at mounting evidence of planned ritualistic abuse, involving children in bizarre ceremonies.

Since the discovery of one such ring in Leeds five years ago, more police resources have been allocated to tackle the problem. Scotland Yard's Child Pornography Squad, set up last November, has six officers working on paedophilia. They are issued with search warrants on a weekly basis.

Miss Michele Elliott, director of Kidscape, the child protection charity, said: "We need to raise public awareness of abuse. Many decent people simply cannot believe that sex rings exist, so they effectively collude by ignoring the obvious signs."

Hong Kong package

Hong Kong residents aged between 30 and 40 will opt out for a large proportion of the 50,000 heads of household granted British citizenship under the nationality package prepared by the Government to maintain business confidence in the colony, it has been disclosed. The Government is close to completing the "points scheme" that will determine who gets British passports, but the Bill, to be published before Easter, faces Tory backbench opposition.

Hospital status vote

Staff ballots in five London teaching hospitals have shown that nine out of 10 health workers do not want their hospital to become self-governing (Julia Sherman writes). A survey published today by the London Health Emergency Group shows that 7,753 staff (89.1 per cent) opposed the move. The greatest opposition was at the North Middlesex Hospital in Haringey; 96.7 of staff voted against opting out. The poll was conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

Boeing warning fault

Boeing has set up a task force under its chief engineer, Mr Bob Davis, to produce new computer software for the latest Boeing 747-400 jet to modify its electronic systems after complaints from airlines of technical problems which have led to delays and cancellations on long-haul flights (Our Air Correspondent writes). Boeing is to cut out 600 automatic checks by the on-board computer to try to eliminate often spurious warnings which forced pilots to delay take-off.

Death of Lord Stewart

Lord Stewart of Fulham, formerly Mr Michael Stewart, Labour's Foreign Secretary in the late 1960s, died in hospital early on Saturday. Lord Stewart, aged 83, who was twice Foreign Secretary, had been active in the House of Lords until he was taken ill. A former president of the Oxford Union, he was the MP for Fulham for 34 years until his life peerage in 1979. He held a series of top posts in Mr Harold Wilson's Cabinet between 1964 and 1970. (Obituary, page 16)

Employers fear burden of having to 'dock' pay of poll tax debtors

By Kevin Eason

One of Britain's biggest employer organizations yesterday joined the chorus of disapproval over the poll tax in a warning of a "significant extra burden" faced by companies collecting debts from workers on behalf of local authorities.

In a letter to Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, the Engineering Employers' Federation expressed concern that, under community charge regulations, employers could be required to deduct poll tax debts direct from workers' pay.

That would involve significant administration problems of dealing with magistrates' courts and local authorities. The federation adds that it is worried that government advice to local authorities that "for recovering the debts of those in stable employment, an attachment of earnings order may be the most suitable remedy", could lead to damaged relationships between companies, employees and unions.

The deductions would also have to be calculated with a complex formula according to the employee's pay, leaving the employer to decide how

much should be repaid from wages towards the poll tax debt.

The federation, which represents more than 5,000 companies, says that would "place a heavy workload on employers, which is totally unrelated to their businesses".

Employers who fail to comply with orders made by courts for local authorities could also face prosecution.

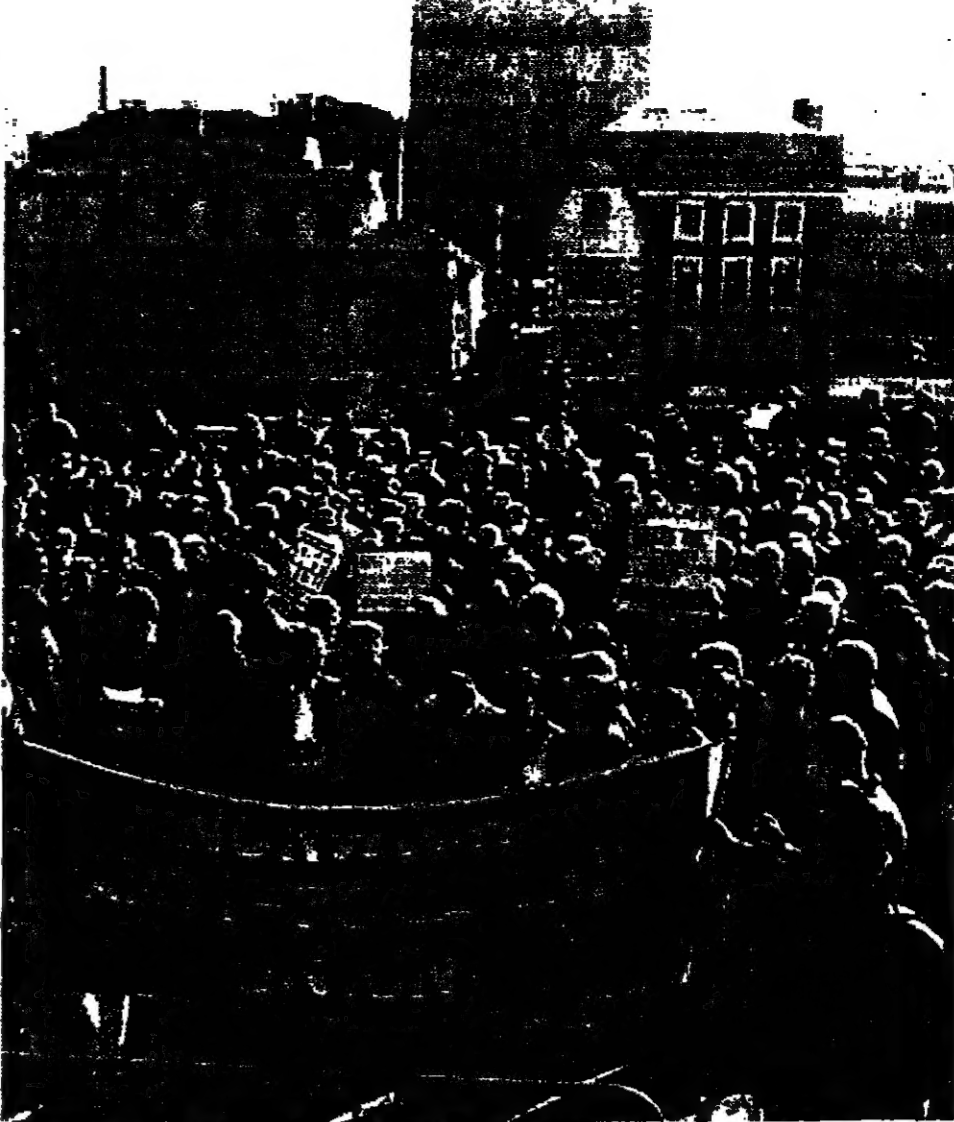
Companies are permitted to deduct £1 to cover the cost of making a poll tax payment on a debtor employee's behalf, but, the federation said, that would barely cover the administrative cost.

However, in a welcome boost for the Government, struggling against critics of its rates reform, a survey shows that four out of five company directors believe that the new Uniform Business Rate (UBR) will have little effect on the viability of business.

A survey by the Institute of Directors shows today that although 44 per cent of directors are considering appealing against their new rates assessments, 49 per cent expected their bills to be the same or lower. However, nearly all — about 92 per cent — said that they would not move their businesses to find lower UBR rates zones.

Dr Ann Robinson, head of the institute's policy unit, said: "The UBR gets a very mixed reception from our members, although the majority clearly feel they can cope. It is good news for Northern manufacturers who have suffered an excessive rates burden for many years and bad news for retailers in the South — in other words, good for exports, bad for imports."

The Labour leadership yesterday accused the Conservatives of "attempting to smear" the party over Militant



Part of a crowd of 500 outside City Hall, Norwich, yesterday when a £365 charge was set. Tendency involvement in violent protests against the poll tax (Our Political Correspondent writes).

They accused Mr Kenneth Baker, the chairman of the Conservative Party, of reaching the gutter in his attacks on Labour and warned that this

was a forerunner of the tactics that would be employed by Conservative Central Office at the next general election.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said: "The next general election will plumb new depths and is likely to be the

dirtiest ever fought in Western Europe."

The leadership is trying to limit the damage that far-left involvement in violent protests could do Labour's standing by highlighting action against Militant. Letters, page 15

Ulster murder is third in five days

By Edward Gorman Irish Affairs Correspondent

Political violence in Northern Ireland claimed its 11th victim this year and its third in five days when a Roman Catholic man was shot dead by hooded "loyalist" gunmen in West Belfast yesterday.

The victim, Mr Eamonn Quinn, aged 32, who was married with a young son, was shot as he worked on his car in Kashmir Road, in the Clonard district.

Police said that the killers travelled in a light blue hatchback car which had been stolen from a Protestant area in the north-west of the city.

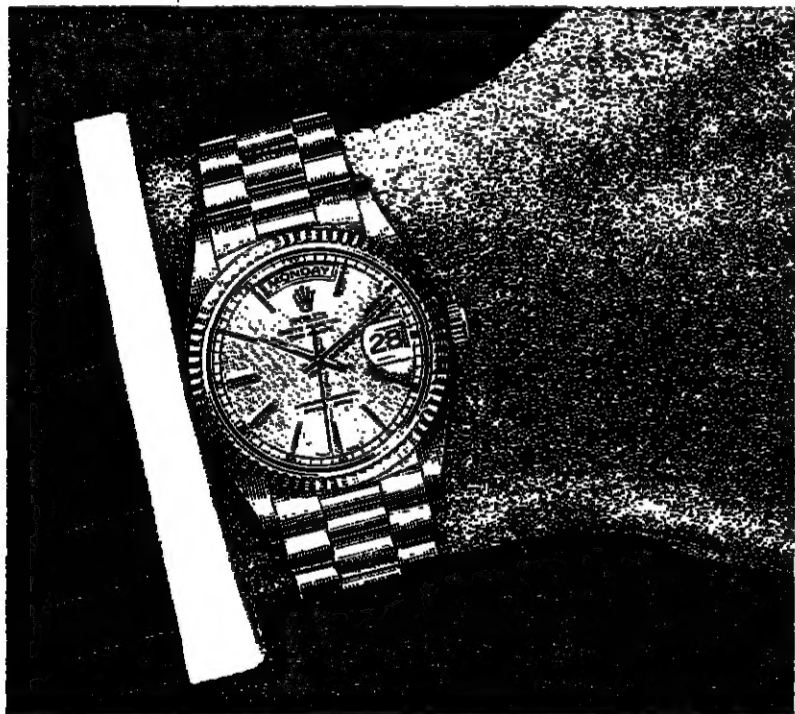
A spokesman for Sinn Féin said he had no connection with any political or terrorist organization and claimed that he may have been the victim of a random shooting by the "loyalists".

Mr Quinn's death follows the murder by the "loyalist" Ulster Volunteer Force of Mr Samuel Marshall, a Roman Catholic from Lurgan, on Wednesday, and that of Mr Thomas Jameson, a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who was ambushed by the IRA near Dungannon, the following day.

His funeral was held in Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, yesterday afternoon. Mr Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP, is to have talks within the next month with Mr Charles Haughey, the first time in a quarter of a century that a Unionist has met an Irish premier formally.

The meeting in Dublin will deal only with Articles Two and Three of the Republic's constitution, the Fermanagh-South Tyrone MP said yesterday. These claim sovereignty over Northern Ireland.

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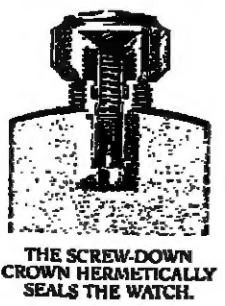
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THE SCREW-DOWN CROWN HERMETICALLY SEALS THE WATCH.

Labour braces itself for Militant 'spoiling' tactics

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour is bracing itself for a Militant influx this week in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election and an attempt by the group to derail Mrs Sylvia Heal's campaign.

Two Militant-organized meetings aimed at fanning opposition to the community charge are planned in Rugeley and Lichfield. On Saturday Militant supporters distributed leaflets advertising a national demonstration in London against the poll tax at the end of the month.

Labour organizers believe Militant wants to prevent a Labour victory in the Midlands' Tory stronghold as part of its campaign against Mr Neil Kinnock's moderation of left-wing policies. Now that almost every local council has set its poll tax Militant supporters have time to turn their attention to the by-election.

Labour has also sought to counter Conservative attempts to link the party with the violence accompanying the final chapter in the introduction of the community charge. It has rushed out a leaflet based on Mr Kinnock's speech in Scotland in which he denounced "toytown revolutionaries".

The leaflet says: "People who use violence and intimidation are to be condemned. They divert attention from the person who is guilty of the tax in the first place — Margaret Thatcher. She pretends to be outraged but in reality she hopes her guilt is obscured by uproar outside town halls."

Mrs Heal will be joined

today by Mrs Glenys Kinnock, wife of the Labour leader, on visits to a school for handicapped children and a private nursery for the children of working mothers.

Mrs Kinnock has been taking a close interest in a scheme to franchise some 50 "Busy Bee" nurseries across the country. Two have already opened in Lichfield.

The visits are intended to underline Mrs Heal's caring credentials — she has worked with the long-term disabled for many years — and to



1987 General election: J Heddle (C), 28,644; C St Hill (Lab), 13,990; T Jones (L/AU), 13,114; J Bazeley (Independent C), 836. C maj: 14,654.

highlight the Government's alleged indifference to their plight.

The second week of the campaign should see a higher profile for the Green Party — at present enmeshed in the struggle for third place with the two former Alliance parties — the Liberal Democrats and the SDP.

The opinion polls suggest that all three are fighting for about 10 per cent of the vote. The campaign of Mr Robert Saunders, aged 29, the Green candidate and a buyer for a Walsall engineering company, should, however, be lifted by the presence today of Mr

David Icke, one of the environmental party's best-known spokesmen.

Mr Icke said: "A massive Green vote on March 22 will land like a rocket among the politicians of Westminster. If we are going to change from our tarts, make and throw away society, we are going to have to show the Government that people are prepared to put their votes where their priorities are."

"We are sure their priorities are to seek a clean, safe world where our future is secure. Greens have been elected to parliaments around the world: it's time the people of Mid-Staffordshire took the lead here."

Mr Tim Jones, the SLD candidate, dismissed the Green programme as "half-baked" and said that on many issues it had no answers at all. Mr Saunders' solution to just about everything was to set up a committee, Mr Jones said.

"One does not deal with a murder squad coming over from Iran or the Lebanon to attack Salman Rushdie, by forming a committee in the villages of Staffordshire — to decide what to do about it," he said.

The Conservatives were dispirited and desperate, Mr Jones said, and Labour was fighting a negative campaign made up of glossy literature devoid of serious policy content.

"Their slogan — vote for what you value — is their way of trying to be all things to all men. They are not saying what they value."

Buried Lancasters may take to the air

By Libby Jukes

Plans to resurrect six Avro Lancaster bombers from their grave near a defunct Second World War airfield will take a step forward today when computer pictures showing their precise location and condition are produced from radar soundings taken of the site last week.

Many of the 3,000 surplus aircraft left after the war were burnt, but the cache at Elsham Wolds, South Humberside, was carefully buried.

Dr Keith Percival-Barker, special projects officer with the Bomber Airfields Association, said the aircraft wings were strapped along the fuselages, which were then wrapped in hessian shrouds and laid side by side, facing east and 20ft deep in a quarry. The engines were interred separately near by.

The society hopes to exhume the aircraft this summer when the wheatfield over their grave has been harvested.

Dr Percival-Barker, who is leading the operation, said: "The MoD has licensed us at every stage so far, and the

former concerned is very happy for us to proceed."

There are only two other known surviving Lancasters, based in Canada and at the Cullinsty Battle of Britain museum near Lincoln. Both were reconstructed with components from Shackletons.

Dr Percival-Barker believes that at least one of the aircraft buried at Elsham Wolds can be restored to working order. The others will provide a supply of spare parts.

The society is negotiating to buy a former airfield in eastern England's "beast country" and will announce its plans next week to open a museum of working aircraft there in memory of the 132,000 aircrew killed during the war.

It will then turn to the North Sea, where it has located crashed aircraft at depths of 60ft that could be recovered.

"There is a literally unique Hampden bomber down there, standing perfectly preserved with its wheels down on a shale bed in a fresh water spring," Dr Percival-Barker said.

Karpov in control of eliminator

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Anatoly Karpov, of the Soviet Union, the former world chess champion, is in firm control in his world title eliminator against the Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The best of 12 games contest will decide who challenges Gary Kasparov in New York in October. Karpov leads 2-1. The fourth game is tomorrow.

Here are the moves of the first game, with Karpov playing black:

White	Black	White	Black
1 Nf3	Nf6	19 Nxd4	Bxd4
1 e4	e5	20 Bxd4	d5
2 Nf3	Nc6	21 Bxd4	Rxd4
3 Bc2	Af6	22 Bg2	Qd6
4 Bc4	Nf6	23 Rxd4	Rxd4
5 O-O	Bc7	24 Rxd4	fe
6 Re1	B5	25 Bc3	Qf6
7 Bb3	Qd6	26 Qd4	Bb6
8 Q3	O-O	27 B4	Nc7
9 B3	Bb7	28 B5	Ne7
10 Q4	Rd8	29 B7	Nf5
11 Nbd2	Bg6	30 N5	Kf7
12 e4	h6	31 Bc5	Ke7
13 Bc2	ed	32 Bc4	cd
14 Qd2	Nd4	33 Qc2	cd
15 Bb1	Ba	34 Bc2	cd
16 Rnd4	ae	35 Qd1	ch4
17 Bb3	Rd6	36 g3	h4x3
18 Nbd4	h4x3		White resigns

'Mad cow' fear for rare species

Antelope in British zoos killed by brain disease

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Five types of antelope including a rare Arabian oryx have died in British zoos since 1986 from the brain disease that has wiped out more than 10,000 farm cattle over the same period.

There is concern that many more zoo animals could be incubating the disease but not yet showing symptoms.

The appearance of spongiform encephalopathy in captive antelopes, confirmed yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is worrying because it suggests the condition, popularly known as "mad cow" disease, is transmissible to a wider range of species than has been admitted.

The first victim was a nyala at Marwell Zoo, near Winchester, in 1986, the same year in which bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was first identified in dairy cattle. A year later a gemsbok died in the same zoo. Last year London Zoo lost an Arabian oryx and a kudu, and Port Lympne Zoo in Hythe, Kent, lost an eland.

Mr Keith Meldrum, the Government's Chief Veterinary Officer, said yesterday that, as in cattle, the most probable source of the infection of zoo animals was feed containing protein derived from the offal of sheep suffering from scrapie, the ovine form of the disease.

Dr Joe Gippe, the curator of mammals at London Zoo, confirmed that the oryx, kudu and other animals in the antelope section had been fed commercial cattle feed before

July 1988 when the feeding of ruminants on meat and bone meal derived from other ruminants was banned. "We have to accept that other antelopes may be incubating the disease."

Dr Tony Andrews, a senior lecturer at the Royal Veterinary College, said there had to be a possibility that other



Endangered: An Arabian oryx at London Zoo.

ruminants might have been infected. "Rhino, giraffe, hippo and elephants all belong to the ruminant group. It is quite possible that zoos might have given these animals commercial cattle feed on occasion if they ran out of more usual materials," he said.

Dr Gippe said certain elephants and hippopotami would not have been fed cattle feed. He admitted, however, there was "a remote chance" such feedstuff might have been given to rhinoceros and a "rather stronger possibility" that giraffe, kept in the same section of the zoo as the antelope, might have been exposed.

It could be a considerable time before the full extent of the disease in zoo animals becomes apparent as it has an incubation period of up to eight years.

If contaminated feed was the cause, no animals should have been infected since July 1988 and the incidence of the disease should decline from about 1992. But some experts believe it is likely to prove transmissible from mothers to their offspring via the embryo.

Writing in *The Veterinary Record*, Dr Helen Grant, a leading neuropathologist, says "scrapie (in sheep) has been with us since at least 1732 because it is transmissible vertically, the placenta, like the brain, being infectious".

She says there is good reason for assuming it can be similarly transmitted in cattle, and the disease is likely "to remain endemic in the UK for the foreseeable future".

Sheep protein has been included in animal feed for years, but a big increase in the sheep population in the early 1980s led to larger amounts of sheep offal turning up in abattoir waste processed by rendering plants into meat and bone meal. At the same time a change in rendering techniques may have lowered temperatures and allowed the scrapie agent to survive.

Dr Gippe said the occurrence of scrapie in zoo animals had "worrying implications" for the role of zoos as places where endangered species are bred for reintroduction to the wild. "The oryx population was down at one point to a global captive herd of no more than about 160, but it has been successfully reintroduced to the wild in Oman."

"As it happens, none of our oryx — we have one male and three females left — are intended for reintroduction, so there is no immediate problem. So far we have no evidence of vertical or lateral transmission of the disease outside sheep and we hope it is simply a matter of waiting for the disease to run its course."

Zoo Check, the charity that monitors zoo animal welfare, yesterday called for an immediate ban on the movement between zoos of potential "at-risk" species pending further information about BSE.

It also said the practice of feeding "antelope, gazelle and other herbivores to other zoo inmates when they die or are culled" — which it described as "not uncommon" — should be suspended.

Three children die in locked freezer

By Craig Seton

A village was in mourning yesterday for three young brothers found suffocated in a disused freezer after being trapped inside because of its self-locking lid.

The deaths of Nicky and Benjamin Dovey, aged four and six, and their step-brother, Ryan Broome, aged three, at Cleehill, near Ludlow, Shropshire, led to the police issuing a warning that disused refrigerators and freezers were death-traps for children unless their doors and lids were removed.

Benjamin, Nicky and Ryan made desperate attempts to escape from the freezer. Police found up to 75

fingerprints on the underside of its lid and a boot mark where one of them had attempted to force it open.

The boys are believed to have been playing a hiding game on their parents' five-acre smallholding on Saturday evening when they climbed into the disused domestic chest freezer stored in an old stockwagon 40 yards from their house.

They were playing outside while their parents, Mr Derek Broome, aged 45, and Mrs Shirley Dovey, 28, who have lived together for four years, prepared their tea. When the boys failed to respond to calls, their parents called in friends and villagers and then the

police to help in the search. More than two hours later, at 7.26pm, Mr Ernest Edwards, aged 68, the boys' uncle, and a police officer discovered the children in the 5-ft-long freezer, stored among junk.

Det Supt John McCammon, of West Mercia Police, said yesterday: "When they were found, the three boys were huddled inside. They were simply collapsed in the bottom of the freezer, sitting side by side. We cannot say how long the children could have survived. The policeman tried to revive them with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage, but it was to no avail."

He said the 10-cubic-foot

freezer had a self-locking mechanism, involving a bar handle and press button.

Police were unable to say whether the boys may have been influenced by watching an episode of the television series, *Neighbours*, broadcast on Friday, in which a little boy shut himself in a trunk.

According to reports, the boys got into the wagon through a tailgate that had been shut for 12 months, but was opened last Wednesday when Mr Broome took some steel catches from inside.

Mr Dovey was the mother of all three boys. Mr Broome, a self-employed builder, who was the natural father of Ryan, breeds horses.

Cash drive in policing is defended

By Stewart Tisdler

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, yesterday denied police claims that economy exercises are wasting police manpower rather than saving it.

Commenting on claims in a report on policing published last week by three police staff associations, he said it was "extraordinary" to say manpower reviews took so much time that police operations were affected.

Mr Waddington, speaking on BBC Radio 4, said the public was entitled to know how the many millions of pounds being put into the police service were spent.

The public seemed, according to the report, to "want it all ways" by having policemen on the beat, investigating all types of crime and protecting society from terrorism.

The Home Office yesterday denied reports that plans are being made to de-uniformize thousands of civilian staff in police forces and to end their right to take industrial action.

It said that a note sent to police authorities had expressed concern at the number of civilian staff leaving and had included a suggestion from the Association of Chief Police Officers that negotiation procedures might be improved if the staff were represented by just one union.

Increase in vigilantes inevitable, study warns

By David Sapsted

The number of "vigilante" groups patrolling British towns and cities will inevitably grow unless the police get the resources to increase their presence on the streets, a report published today says.

Neither citizens' patrols, such as the Guardian Angels operating on the London Underground, nor the hiring of private security guards to protect communities are "appropriate or effective long-term responses to problems of crime and safety," according to the report from Crime Concern.

Mr Jon Bright, the organization's director of field operations and author of the report, says: "Unless an effective response is forthcoming from the police and local authorities, there is likely to be an increase in the number of unaccountable, self-help crime prevention patrols."

The report from Crime Concern, launched by Mr Douglas Hurd when he was Home Secretary in 1988 to stimulate the national debate on crime prevention, comes in the wake of a survey by the Harris Research Centre last week on public fears over crime.

Crime Concern says: "People are still very concerned about crime because there is probably much more of it and, certainly, more fear

of it. In many areas the public feel, rightly or wrongly, that there is no public agency responsible for and capable of providing a reasonable level of community safety and protection."

"Guidance is needed from the Home Office on where it is appropriate for private security firms to be deployed and

The effects of workplace crime on employers and employees is to be the subject of a seminar addressed by the Princess Royal and Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, in London on April 30 (David Sapsted writes). Victim Support, organizers of the conference, cite a security guard who had a heart attack after an armed ambush and maintain employers have a responsibility towards such victims.

where patrolling functions should only be undertaken by police officers."

Recognizing the growing public demand for visible and regular patrols to reduce the number of burglaries and street crimes, the report says the police must consider ways of increasing the quantity and quality of beat officers, backed up by special constables. Local authorities are also urged to train and deploy more estate and area caretakers to take on

patrolling and surveillance. Mr Bright says that private security firms should be required to be licensed and says that where they are deployed to guard residential areas, they should be required to maintain liaison with the police.

"Unofficial neighbourhood patrols by local residents should be discouraged. They may be justified only in exceptional circumstances or in places where the police or local authority are unable to act effectively," the report adds.

On the Underground, the report calls for such measures as the employment of more British Transport police, the installation of closed circuit television throughout the system, improved lighting at stations, alarm systems in passageways and drivers' cabs, the avoidance of single-staff trains and the provision of women-only carriages late at night.

The sincerity, commitment and public spiritedness of the Guardian Angels is acknowledged by many. However, there seems to be agreement among the police and London Underground management that they are an American problem and that they are not appropriate here," Crime Concern says.

Classic cars auctioned for £137,000

By John Shaw

Classic cars were sold for £137,000 by Sotheby's at the weekend when it auctioned a wide range of motoring memorabilia at the Stratford-on-Avon Motor Museum.

Prices for the top lots were on estimate, showing that the car market was "holding up very well indeed". Mr Michael Worthington-Williams, the firm's consultant, said. He attended the sale which saw the dispersal of the remaining contents of the museum.

"There is a lot of talk about gloom and doom and economic hardship at present but what this, and the very good aircraft auction we had last week, showed was that it has not

affected people's interest and enthusiasm for their hobbies."

One collector paid £30,000 for a blue three-litre Lagonda drop-head coupe with only 26,000 miles on the mileometer.

The car was owned and used by Mr David Brown, the industrialist, who took Lagonda over in the fifties.

A 1931 MG M-Type sports car, selling originally for £185, went for £16,500. It was owned for many years by a policeman

and achieved 60mph and 60mpg in a timed run in 1945.

A 1953 Minor convertible Series II, recently rebuilt, went for £4,100 and a rare 1926-29 Arab two-litre sports chassis and running gear sold, complete with detailed body drawings, for £12,000.

London dealers were active at the weekend as the European Fine Art Fair opened at Maastricht in The Netherlands. Noortman, from St James', sold the most expensive work, a group of children with a cat by Judith Leyster (1609-1660) for about £650,000.

The firm also sold a Cornelis Desart (1660-1704)

of an inn interior for around £200,000. A much-travelled French ormolu-mounted mahogany barometer and clock which once belonged to Frances, Lady Ashburton, and was knocked down for 90gns at Christie's in 1950, was sold by Mario Crijns, a Dutch dealer, to a Belgian buyer for about 150,000 Guilders (£50,000).

There are eight works on show worth more than £1 million and considerable interest was shown in one of the most expensive, a still life by Jan Jansz den Uyl (1596-1640). It was sold at Sotheby's in New York in January 1988 for £1.2 million.

Loosening up the slinky, sinuous look



Silver rope and bow trompe l'oeil embroidery on a slinky velvet dress with swathed lace neckline, Bruce Oldfield; and, right, the T-shirt shift, short and scoop-necked in silver Lurex, Arabella Pollen.

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

The weekend round of top designer fashion shows and exhibitions that add up to the London Collections wound up last night with a governmental reception at Lancaster House celebrating British style.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Industry and Enterprise, hosted the evening with Sir Edward Rayne, chairman of the British Fashion Council.

International store buyers were thinner on the ground than expected this season, but the mood among designers was resiliently high since many of them will pack up their collections today and take them over to Paris, where they will sell at the next bout of the international fashion season later this week.

Bruce Oldfield, a favourite of the Princess of Wales, who enjoys emphasizing the curves with intricate draping and ruching, put on a show at Claridge's yesterday that should keep his willowy high society clientele happy.

Puckered velvet and lace was swathed into graceful necklines that bare the shoulders. Velvet is smocked and plaited into a basket weave swoop for evening coats, but even Oldfield has loosened up his slinky, sinuous

Polished repertoire of snappy suits for daytime in bright pink, orange and blue

silhouette, introducing sweaters in sequins and rose-scattered silk jackets puffed up with padding and cut into a relaxed hooded parka.

In an upbeat, colourful show Arabella Pollen ran through a polished repertoire of snappy suits for daytime in bright pink, orange and blue, gleaming with brass buttons and livened up with contrast braid.

For night her line is scoop-necked and slinky and her evening T-shirts barely skim the knee in gold lace and colourful stretchy Lurex. The same simple T-shirt reappears as a tunic in lace, lamé or velvet dropped over shorts.

PORTFOLIO

Win pays poll tax

There were two winners in the weekend £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mrs Mary Stocker, aged 62, from Wootton, the Isle of Wight, will use most of her prize to pay the poll tax. "It's not a very exciting way to spend a windfall," she said. "But my husband and I are both retired, and delighted that we can now easily meet the bill and pay for presents for our six grandchildren."

Mrs Stocker shares the prize with Miss Karen Chia, a student at the University of Keele, Staffordshire.

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Stalin's labour camps.

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For the last three years we've been putting together what we believe is one of the most powerful television documentary series ever made.

During that time we've seen and heard things that have seriously shaken our usual journalistic detachment.

None more so than what we saw on a remote stretch of frozen wasteland in the North of Russia beyond the Arctic Circle.

Here we became the first Westerners ever to set eyes on "Section 501," the name given to one of Josef Stalin's forced labour camps or gulags.

One of 8,000 similar camps, Section 501 was where Stalin sent 'social deviants' to be punished and, so he claimed, rehabilitated.

The truth is, however, that most of these so-called 'deviants' were plain, ordinary people like you or me and their rehabilitation consisted of being frozen, starved and worked to death.

Their crimes? Acts of treason like telling jokes about Stalin, listening to the BBC World Service and playing decadent American jazz music.

Even a simple hobby like stamp-collecting could get you imprisoned on a

charge of having contacts with foreign countries.

For heinous offences such as these, it is estimated that more than 10 million people died in the gulags.

There were survivors; some are still living.

Today they are frail and old, yet for us they relived the worst moments of their lives.

We talked to their children and their grandchildren.

We covered eleven thousand miles within the Soviet Union alone, and conducted interviews in Russian,

Georgian, Ukrainian,

Byelorussian,

Serbo-Croat

and English.

We watched over a million feet of unseen Soviet archive film.

We spoke to Lenin's niece, Trotsky's grandson and even Svetlana Stalin, daughter of the man who conceived and created the forced labour camps.

Perhaps the most disturbing journey we made was our exploration into the heart and mind of Stalin himself.

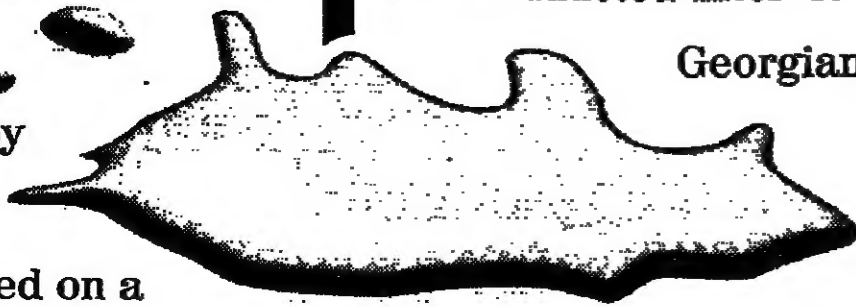
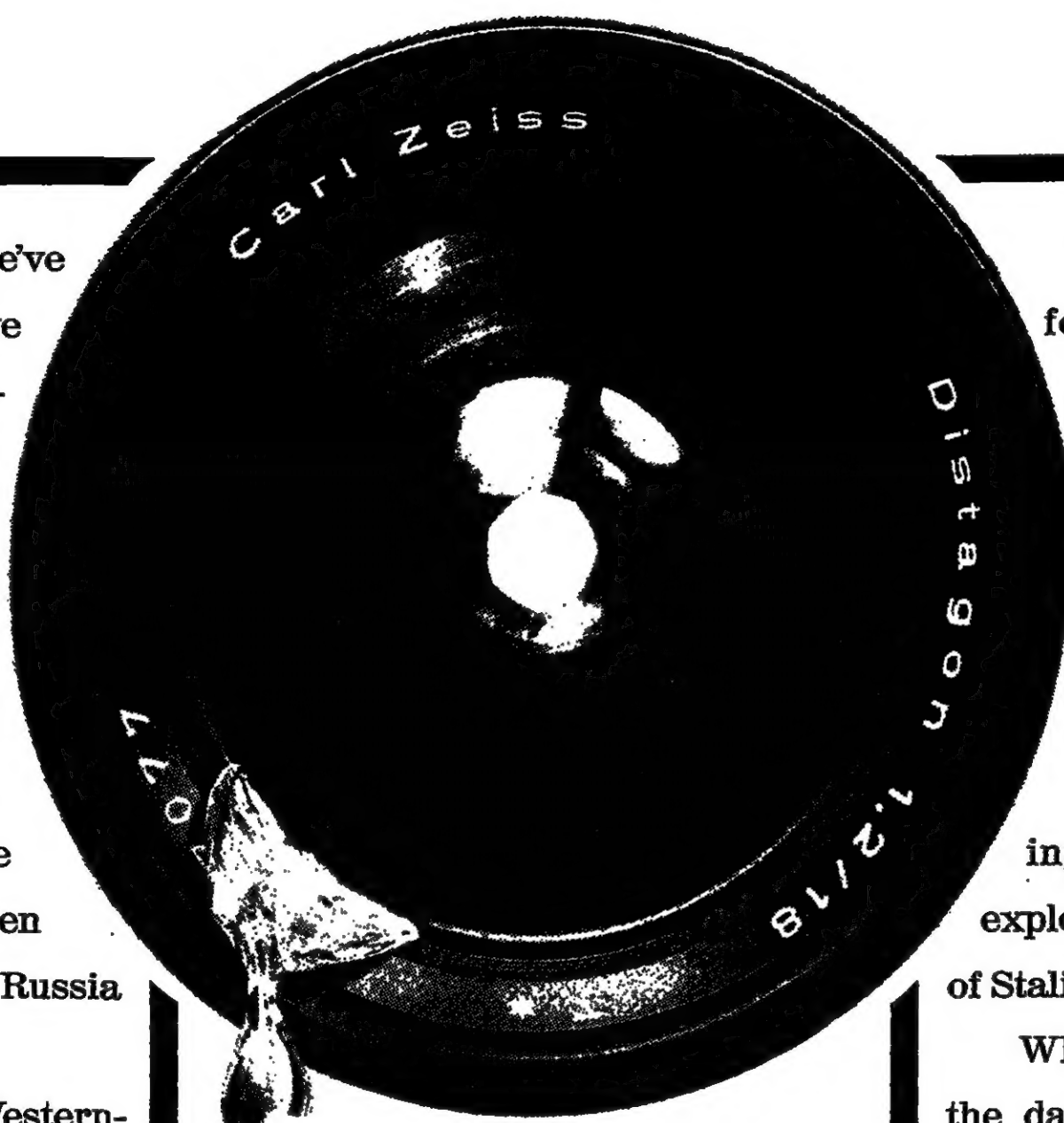
What we find there, lurking in the darkness, you can see for yourself in "Stalin," a major new documentary series from Thames Television which begins on Tuesday 13th March at 10.35pm on ITV.

As you might imagine, getting the KGB to let us see the forced labour camps was anything but easy.

Reporting what we saw there, however, was probably the hardest thing we've ever done.

"STALIN"
STARTS
TOMORROW
10.35 PM.

THAMES. A TALENT FOR TELEVISION.



Peers to renew pressure on Patten over NCC break-up

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to come under pressure to prove his "green" credentials by making radical changes to his plans for breaking up the Nature Conservancy Council.

In the wake of a Lords investigation, peers are demanding legal powers in the Environmental Protection Bill for a United Kingdom nature conservation body to rule in disputes between the new councils. They also want guarantees that the body to carry out scientific work will be adequately funded and will retain its independence.

Although the peers appear resigned to the splitting of the NCC into English, Scottish and Welsh bodies, they have listed 24 commitments for establishing a nationwide science base.

A cross-party committee report to be debated in the Lords concludes: "Dividing up the administration of nature conservation in Great Britain goes against the current trend internationally."

"Witnesses repeatedly demonstrated that a narrower, more localized perspective can distort how the overall interests of nature conservation are perceived, especially in the perpetual tussle between conservation and development." The peers criticize

Mr Nicholas Ridley, former Secretary of State for the Environment, for announcing the reforms last July without consultation and with support from only the Scottish conservation lobby.

In spite of calls for the break-up of the NCC to be switched from the legislation before Parliament to Mr Patten's proposed White Paper on the environment, the peers want to press ahead with the change to end uncertainty

EC emissions clash

By Our Technology Correspondent

Britain is heading for a new dispute with its European Community partners over limits on carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, it was claimed yesterday.

The European Commission's environment and energy directorates have produced strict new guidelines intended to unify the EC's stand on carbon pollution. The guidelines call for a stabilization of carbon pollution at present levels by the year 2000 and for sizeable cuts after that.

Commission officials fear, however, that Britain will try to block the plan in favour of less rigorous proposals promoted by the US and Japan.

which is blighting conservation work. Some recommendations are expected to be debated in the Commons committee-stage scrutiny of the reforms later this week.

● A left-of-centre think-tank with close links to the Labour Party today urges the imposition of a 25 per cent "green VAT" on products which damage the environment (Robin Oakley writes).

In a report entitled *Green Taxes - a budget memorandum*, the Institute for Public Policy Research calls for higher-rate VAT on such products as detergents containing phosphates (which create oxygen depletion and which are expensive to remove in sewage plants), batteries containing the heavy metals mercury and cadmium, and "energy-inefficient appliances" such as washing machines and refrigerators.

But the institute calls equally for zero-rating for VAT purposes of repair services and of energy conservation products such as insulation materials and heating-control devices. It says the plans it advocates could be threatened by the European Commission's proposals to harmonize VAT, and urges the Government to press for environmental taxes across the European Community.

The institute calls for excise-type duties on fertilizers and pesticides which cause water pollution, non-returnable beverage containers (preferably in parallel with the deposit-refund systems backed by Labour), chlorine-bleached paper products, packaging and CFCs.

The shipping industry is failing to address growing international concerns over threats to the environment, the International Maritime Organization in London will be told in a report by Friends of the Earth.

The pressure group is urging the world's fleets to promote safe disposal of equipment containing such chemicals.

● Operators of the world's fleets are today urged to bring in strict new measures aimed at ending the use of, ozone-damaging chemicals.

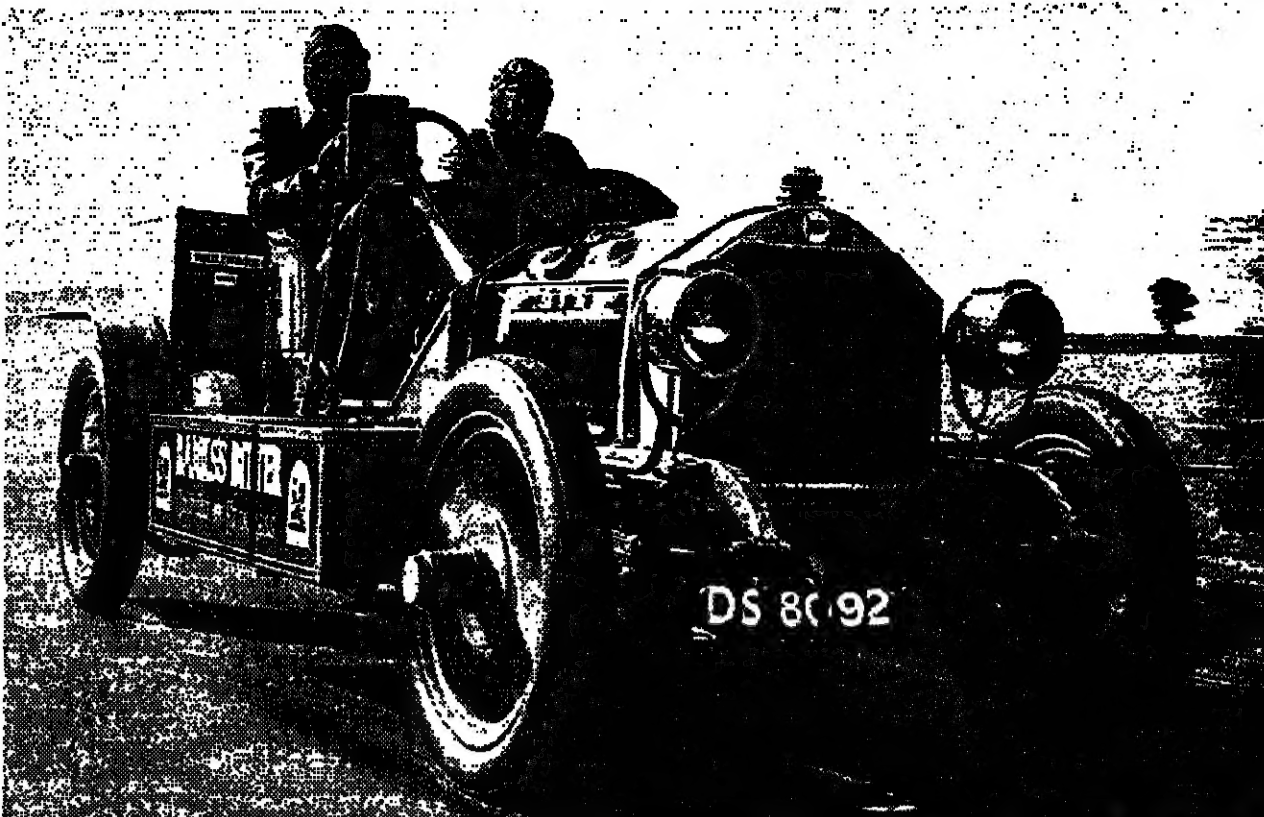
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The pressure group is urging the world's fleets to promote safe disposal of equipment containing such chemicals.

Green Taxes (Dr Susan Owen, Victor Anderson and Irene Brunsell; IPPR, 18 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 1ES).

Peking road ahead for a 1912 Lancia

MARK PEPPER



A 1912 Lancia, the oldest of 80 vehicles which will set off from London to Peking on April 7, being put through its paces in Nottinghamshire by Mr John Brydon and co-driver Richard Black. The driving challenge recreates a Peking-Paris race in 1907.

Heysel fans risk stiffer penalties over appeal

Appeal proceedings open in Brussels today over the 14 Liverpool football supporters convicted of manslaughter in the Heysel Stadium tragedy almost five years ago, in which 39 people were crushed to death (Peter Gifford writes from Brussels).

The action could lead to heavier

sentences, according to M Pierre Erauw, a lawyer who acted for the Belgian public prosecutor at the initial trial. Each was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and given a three-year prison term, half of it suspended for five years. The verdict was given last April. If the three appeal judges decide that the crimes were

premeditated, sentences could, technically, be increased to 10 years. M Erauw says. If not, as is more probable, they could still be given maximum terms of five years, he says. He describes the retrial as a "double-or-quits gamble" for the 14, who are also appealing against sentence.

Baird and radar

Patents 'point to invention in 1926'

By Nick Nuttall Technology Correspondent

Did the father of television, John Logie Baird, also invent radar almost a decade before its official birth?

New research has unearthed radar patents belonging to Mr Baird that date back to 1926, nine years in advance of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the man credited with the invention that helped win the Second World War.

At the behest of Mr Harry Wimperis, former director of scientific research at the Air Ministry, Sir Robert's system



John Logie Baird: authors credit him with invention.

was used to reflect radio waves from an RAF Heyford bomber in 1935. It was then developed into the device that played such a crucial role in defending the British Isles during the Battle of Britain.

However, Mr Tom McArthur and Mr Peter Waddell, independent researchers, have discovered a ministry file entitled "The Use of Television in Aircraft", whose contents detail Mr Baird's work.

Mr Baird had been on secondment to the Army Reserve since the late 1920s, modifying his work for secret signalling, and they believe there is evidence that the

Scotsman had developed a rudimentary pulsed radar system as early as 1923.

They have written a book, *Vision Warrior, The Hidden Achievement of John Logie Baird*, in support of the claim.

Further evidence has come from Professor Malcolm Baird, the inventor's son.

He disclosed that, in 1980, Captain Leonard Plugges, founder of Radio Luxembourg and wartime Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production during the War, had told him that he had worked with his father.

Captain Plugges had told him he regarded Baird as the "top scientist" in the development of radar.

The claims, have been greeted with scepticism by other radar historians.

Mr David Pritchard, whose book *The Radar War* was published last year, with a foreword by Professor R V Jones of Aberdeen University, said it was wrong to credit either Mr Baird or Mr Watson-Watt with the invention.

Mr Pritchard, who lives in Leigh-on-Sea, claims that German scientists first demonstrated radar in 1904 as "a way of preventing collisions at sea". By 1929, it had been developed into a modern radar system. However, it operated at a different frequency to the British system.

British radar worked at a lower frequency and could cover large areas of the sky to give early warning of aircraft.

The German's radar worked at a very high frequency, which made it highly accurate but more restricted in range.

Vision Warrior, The Hidden Achievement of John Logie Baird (Tom McArthur and Peter Waddell. The Oryx Press).

Footballer killed

Dean Horrix, the Third Division footballer, was killed yesterday when a car driven by his wife, Carol, crashed into two trees beside the A340, near Basingstoke.

The Bristol City midfielder, aged 28, had played with his team away on Saturday, when it beat Shrewsbury 1-0. Mrs Horrix, aged 30, of Minstead Close, Tadley, Hampshire, was taken to the Basingstoke District Hospital suffering from severe hand injuries and deep shock. She was later transferred to a specialist plastic surgery unit.

Bomb clue

Police hunting the IRA bombers who struck in Yeoman Street, Leicester, on February 20, want to trace two men who appeared to be surveyors. One was stocky, aged about 30 and 5ft 7in; the other was slim build and between 5ft 10in and 6ft.

Family united

Stanislav Tchassov, the ballet dancer who defected to the West eight months ago, was reunited with his wife and young son, after they were allowed to leave the Soviet Union to live in Britain.

Body found

A three-day search for Miss Susan Davies, a mentally retarded woman aged 21, ended when her partly clothed body was found two miles from her home at Ingley Residential Nursing Home, near Saxilby, Lincolnshire.

Bird in can

Mr David Ashman, a vegetarian aged 25, of Stratford, east London, found a dead bird in a tin of Sainsbury's sweetcorn.

Landmark dig

Work starts on an archaeological dig next month to discover the age of the White Horse on the chalk hillside at Uffington, Oxfordshire.

Dock jobs lost

Fifty dock workers' jobs are to be shed in Portsmouth, Hampshire. Commodore Terminals say the move is to make way for a quay modernization programme.

Train death

A girl aged 12 was killed when a passenger train crashed into her as she walked across a level crossing. Joanne Davies was walking to her home in Cilmercy, Powys.

Bond winners

The winners of the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 27BN 599073, from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; £50,000, bond number 18XN 971637, from Leicestershire; £25,000, bond number 26DW 720304, from the London borough of Enfield.

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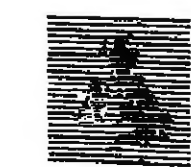
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Tax system to y
basic income fo

Liberal Democrats' leader attacks Thatcher and Kinnock at two-day spring conference in Cardiff

Ashdown sets out for a future with Europe

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday that his Liberal Democrat Party represented the moral voice of the nation.

At his party's two-day spring conference in Cardiff Mr Ashdown said Thatcherism was out of tune with the times, while Labour policy at the last election and at the next election would "always be equal and opposite".

Labour, he said, would do anything for votes; the Conservatives would always put private interests before public services. He set out the Liberal Democrats' stall as that of unashamed, integrationist Europeans, ready to assert the democratic values so precious to the emergent nations of Eastern Europe.

Europe, he insisted, was the framework in which to build Britain's industries, the safeguard for civil rights and the way to give the environment the priority it required.

The new agenda of European politics was the Liberal Democrat agenda and democratic reforms — a Bill of Rights, fair votes and devolution — had to be at the centre. The task of the party was not to support the system in Britain but to break it.

He called for an expansion of profit-related pay, an expansion of education and training, entry into the ex-

change-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System and for an independent European central bank.

Mr Ashdown said: "The insistence that Britain alone should have a bank enmeshed by the short-term priorities of politicians stands against the lessons of all recent experience."

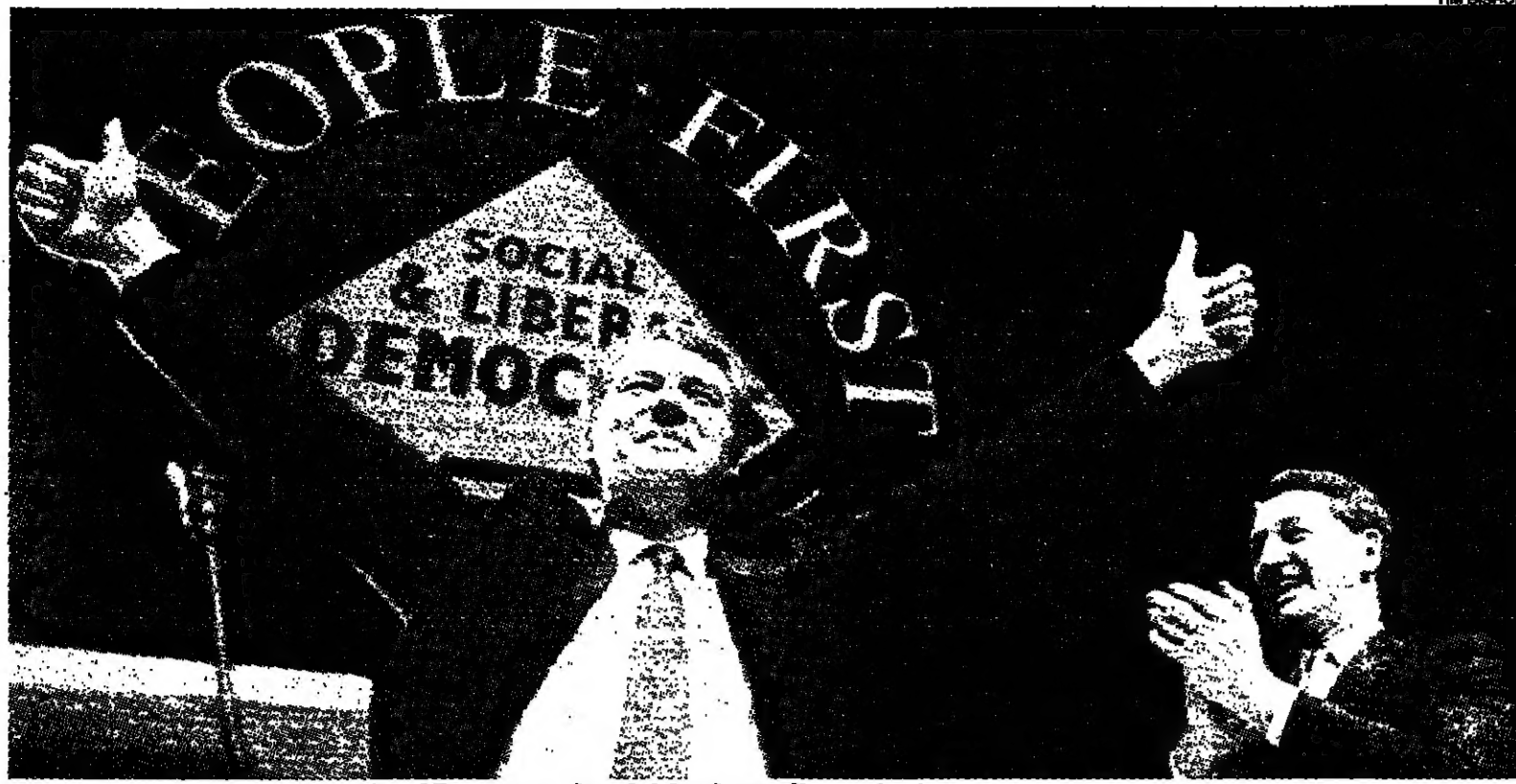
The Liberal Democrat leader claimed for his party the right to speak for the millions who could not identify with Labour or Conservative, and pointed out that a quarter of the electorate was consistently refusing to vote for either main party.

Perhaps his key claim as he urged his party, still languishing on only 7 per cent support in national opinion polls, was when he declared "ours is the party of local government".

What put the 1,200 delegates in good heart was that they see the issue of the poll tax as damaging both main parties and offering a great opportunity in this year's local government elections.

In all areas councillors said whatever national polls might say they were confident of support in the May elections.

The Liberal Democrats believe they can sell their local income tax as a realistic and comparatively simple alternative while both main parties



Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, acknowledging the standing ovation from delegates after his keynote speech in Cardiff yesterday.

suffer from poll tax riots. The other factor sustaining morale was that the party continued to secure its base in local government by-elections in spite of the national picture.

In by-elections one day last month, their organizers say,

they took 31 per cent of the 16,500 votes cast.

The Liberal Democrats in Cardiff believed the worst post-merger traumas were behind them, that Dr David Owen's disillusionment with politics was opening more

space in the centre, and that events in Eastern Europe represented a psychological blow against socialism, even of the variety offered by Labour under Mr Kinnock.

Against that background, they are convinced they too

can profit from an anti-Conservative swing.

Whether the optimism is well placed depends firstly on the mid-Staffordshire by-election and, secondly, on the local government elections.

If they can recapture a clear

third place from the Green Party after the misery of last year's European Parliament elections, it could be the start of the comeback.

If they fail to put daylight between them it will be yet another false dawn.

Recruiting and cash problems eased

Liberal Democrats are claiming a recovery in their membership and financial position (John Lewis writes).

Membership, which slumped by 10,000 to 80,000 after the European elections last June is now back at about 85,000.

Mr Graham Elson, the general secretary, said that renewals of membership were encouraging. Chinese supporters in Croydon South, for example, had requested another 100 membership forms after hearing Mr Paddy Ashdown's strong stand on Hong Kong.

Another campaign to recruit new members was to be launched later in the year. He said that the party had been facing a £605,000 accumulated deficit at the end of 1989, but the latest figures suggested that would be reduced to £530,000.

The party was also ahead on its target of securing a £290,000 surplus in 1990. Mr Elson said: "It is part of our plan to eliminate the deficit entirely in time for the general election, so that we can be in a position to fight the best possible campaign."

Radical green policy to end nuclear power

By John Lewis

Liberal Democrats adopted a radical green policy, setting a target of a 30 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005 and the phasing out of nuclear power stations by 2020 or earlier.

Delegates backed a eight-point programme on energy, despite powerful opposition from those who argued it was wrong to reject nuclear power without knowing whether it would be needed.

The other six proposals were to use taxation, incentives and emission limits to reduce pollution; set up a department of environmental protection; aim at a 4 per cent annual reduction in the UK's energy ratio; taxation of fuel use and spending on public

Mr Ashdown is urging that the framework of Nato and the Warsaw Pact should be used to create a European regional security structure. To provide the conditions in which Germany can safely unify requires a new security architecture, he says. There must be no "quick fix" or precipitate dismantling of Nato. He envisages a new security force with military units from East and West which could provide security and border protection in sensitive areas of Eastern Europe.

transport to provide alternatives to the private car; develop renewable sources of energy, including a Severn barrage; liberalize the coal industry, ending British Coal's monopoly of pit licensing.

Mr Dickson Mabon, a former Labour energy minister, said: "We are not closing any doors on human knowledge, future discoveries or inventions."

Mr Stewart Campbell (Edinburgh, Pentlands) criticized the policy, however, for failing to quantify the problem. How far could the demand for electricity be reduced by conservation? How much electricity could realistically be produced by renewable sources? Academic studies

showed that the risk associated with nuclear power was no different from that of other methods of generating electricity.

He was greeted with cries of disbelief when he went on to add: "There may be popular concern about the health of populations living near to nuclear power plants, but that concern has not been justified by statistical studies."

Mr Keith Smith, a scientist at the Edinburgh School of Architecture, said that to keep the lights on, factories going and to prevent hypothermia among the old, Britain might have to use nuclear generation. It was right to phase out reactors which were getting dangerous, but not to close down other stations until it was clear that they were not required.

Mrs Jenny Randerson, prospective parliamentary candidate for Cardiff Central, defended a commitment to build a Severn barrage. It would provide between 4 and 10 per cent of the nation's electricity and any damage would be local.

Mr David Heath (Somerton, Somerset) said that Lord Marshall might want a nuclear power station in his back garden, but the rest of the country did not. The nuclear industry had always been wrong in its estimates of what were needed.

Mr Keith Meltum, chairman of the Green Democrats, generated his own energy at the conference by inviting delegates to applaud a number of statements about nuclear energy. Some of the loudest applause was for the statement: "nuclear power stations should be phased out".

Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, the party's environment spokesman, said the Government's commitment to encourage a 30 per cent increase in energy demand over the next 10 years would "drive a coach and horses through Chris Patten's environment White Paper".

Tax system to yield basic income for all

By Our Political Editor

Everyone would receive a basic Citizens' Income under a Liberal Democrat government. It would represent a merging of the tax and Social Security systems; and the first step would be to integrate income tax and National Insurance contributions into a Broad Income Tax.

An additional tax rate of 50 per cent would begin at about £30,000 a year, and mortgage interest relief would be confined to 25 per cent for all income bands.

Personal savings would be encouraged by the granting of tax relief on income paid into Registered Savings Accounts, and the basic State Pension would be increased to £48 for single people over 65 (£75 for couples) and made tax free.

The proposals were among those in a Green Paper entitled "Common Benefit", which was unanimously supported by the Federal Conference.

Other points include a £1 increase in child benefit and its linkage to the retail price index, the abolition of the obligation for everyone, irrespective of income, to have to

pay 20 per cent of the Community Charge, removal of cash limits on the Social Fund and a single Low Income Benefit.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would need to increase taxation in his budget on March 20, though it would be "scandalously unfair" to do so without indexing tax allowances.

He called for higher taxes on company cars and fuel, an end to the top rate tax allowance on mortgage interest, and higher excise duties on alcohol and tobacco. Help with the costs of child care for working mothers should not be restricted to those with work-place nurseries.

He also called for an end to composite tax paid on Building Society and Bank savings.

Mr Beith and, later, Mr Paddy Ashdown called for the resignation of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, for taking no action over the A1-Payed brothers' acquisition of the department store Harrods.

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Drive for linguists to boost business is attacked as wasteful

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Government schemes to encourage more language teaching in schools to help British business meet the challenge of 1992 are a waste of time and resources as industry already has sufficient linguists, an examination board official says today.

Mr Douglas Pickett, of the London Chamber of Commerce Examination Board, says companies find it cheaper and more convenient to employ foreigners than Britons with a second language.

His claims run counter to the Government's insistence that it is essential for more people to learn foreign languages if Britain is to survive in the new single European market.

The growing shortage of language teachers has led Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to consider introducing a training bursary to attract more language students into the classroom as he has done in mathematics, physics, technology and chemistry. A new

package of bursaries is expected later this year.

Mr Pickett, who speaks six languages, says: "We already have more linguists than can be absorbed into business. That is why so many of them languish in the teaching profession ... if business really needed them it could soon lure them away from unremunerative work in the schools. We do our youngsters no good by pretending there is a demand for high level language skills when there isn't."

Mr Pickett, writing in *Language Matters*, published today by the Associated Examining Board, welcomes the introduction of at least two modern languages under the National Curriculum. "It will at least take the freakishness out of language learning and provide a reserve of skill which business of the future may be able to use." Unless business does use it, however, the efforts of teachers and students will be wasted and great disillusion will follow.

The dominance of English

as a world language means that many Britons have no wish to learn another language while so many foreigners are learning English. As a result, Mr Pickett says British business "finds it cheaper and easier to hire foreigners".

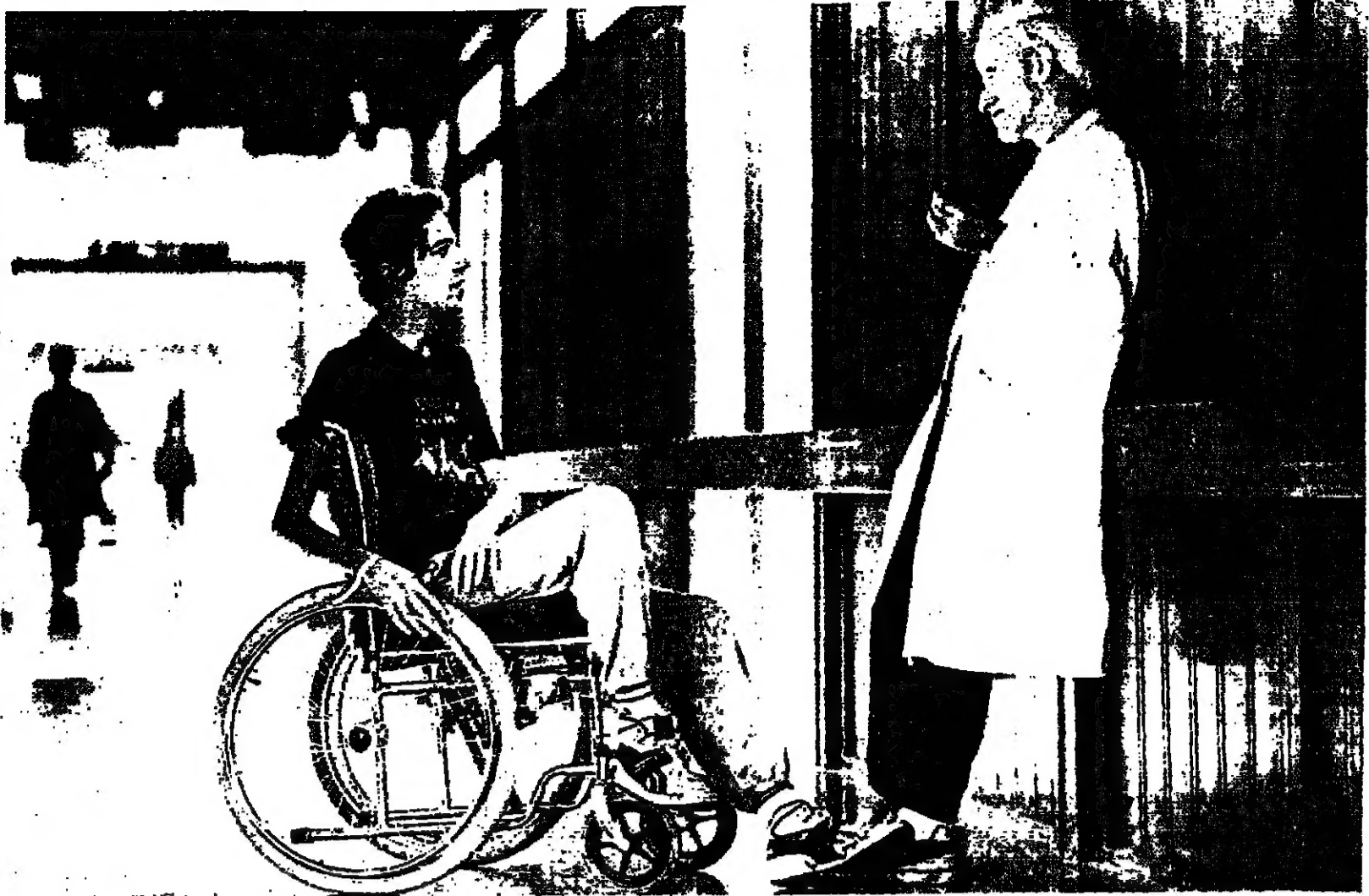
Teachers worried about National Curriculum tests to be introduced for pupils aged seven, 11, and 14 have been told not to panic by Mr MacGregor. The Secretary of State told a meeting of deputy head teachers in Norfolk at the weekend that many teachers were alarming themselves unnecessarily.

The first tests will be introduced for pupils aged seven in 1991. Mr MacGregor said that he did not believe they would be as onerous or as complicated as some teachers feared.

He said: "Without testing you cannot establish what pupils have learned and what they have not, and you cannot therefore tailor teaching to meet their needs."

Education, pages 32-33

Savile passes on message of hope born of pain



Jimmy Savile, the disc jockey and television presenter, with Mr Brian Dugard, a patient at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville, for which Mr Savile has long worked as a fund-raiser.

Mr Dugard, aged 23, a design history student from Brighton Polytechnic, fell from the Berlin Wall during New Year's celebrations and broke his neck (Robin Young writes).

He has been receiving treatment at Stoke Mandeville since mid-January, after spending two weeks in a German hospital.

Mr Savile, who has an office

at the hospital, recently led a fund-raising campaign of nationwide sponsored walks, which brought in £750,000 for the Wishbone Appeal of the British Orthopaedic Association. He has run as many as 18 fund-raising marathons in a year, in spite of a spinal injury from a shot-firing blast that ended his mining career as a Bervin boy during the Second World War. At the time he was told he would never walk again.

He attributes his recovery to "mind over matter: lying down whenever the pain came on, wherever I was, ... in a street, a dance hall, anywhere."

'Change of approach' in church appointments

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The efforts of the late Dr Gareth Bennett in his famous Crockford's preface to change the Church of England were not, after all, in vain, according to the Archbishop of York, Canon George Austin.

In a new book surveying the present state of the church, Canon Austin says several recent senior appointments indicated a change of approach. There was a "distinctly different flavour" about them compared with the period before Dr Bennett's preface appeared in 1987.

Canon Austin said yesterday he had in mind such appointments as the new bishops of Sodor and Man, Rochester, Blackburn and Southwell, the new Dean of St Paul's, and possibly the new Bishop of Bath and Wells. He said his own appointment as Archbishop of York was in the same category.

Not all the new appointments were of conservative traditionalists but they were not of the type of which Dr Bennett had complained; liberal churchmen with broad experience or connected with Cuddesdon or Westcott House theological colleges.

Canon Austin was a friend of Dr Bennett, who committed suicide at the height of the controversy that his preface created, and his own researches into the background of senior appointments was one of the sources Dr Bennett used in writing his preface.

Dr Bennett had concluded that preferment in the church

often went to churchmen whose career paths had at some time crossed with the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, who was associated with Cuddesdon and Westcott, and had many friends in religious broadcasting.

Canon Austin maintains that the previous predominance of liberal appointments had partly arisen from the mistaken perception that liberal churchmen were half way between Anglo-Catholics and evangelicals and therefore the most acceptable to both wings.

He has offered the alternative model of a triangle rather than a spectrum to illustrate the way theological opinion in the Church of England is distributed, with the liberal position occupying one of the corners rather than the middle ground.

"Whether this is just a few crumbs or a real change remains to be seen," Canon Austin said. "But it is no



Canon Austin: Liberal group getting a 'second wind'.

longer sufficient for a liberal bishop to present a new thing to the synod to receive unqualified support from the House of Bishops.

Canon Austin added that he did not expect this change in mood to make any significant difference to the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury, which is likely to occupy the church later this year.

He said he wrote his essay for the book several months ago and he would not be so confident now as he had the impression that the liberal group in the Church of England was at last getting a "second wind".

The election for the Houses of Clergy and Laity, due this autumn, was likely to be one of the most important events in the history of the Church of England since the Reformation, he added.

If the liberal group won a good majority, sufficient to pass the measure allowing the ordination of women to the priesthood, the evangelical and Anglo-Catholic groups would retire into their shells.

The real problem with the General Synod was that it did not properly represent the 70 per cent of church members who were not closely attached to any one church party, liberal, Anglo-Catholic or evangelical.

The book, *Building in Love* (edited by John Greenhalgh and Elizabeth Russell), is published by St Mary's, Bourne Street, London. Canterbury selection, page 16

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Whitehall Brief

The capacity to tolerate strong-minded managers

The ambulance dispute is still formally unresolved. The proposal by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, to introduce competition into a service whose ethos is co-operation has yet to bite.

The management of the National Health Service has to cope meanwhile with the latest batch of partisan appointments to district health authority chairmanships. It is an inauspicious time to take on a job entitled NHS director of personnel.

But you could say Mr Eric Caines, the man who will be named to that appointment, is well equipped, his two most recent jobs having been operational commands in the prison service and in social security, neither free of either political or administrative headaches.

Yet Mr Caines's move is surprising, and may say something not entirely flattering about Whitehall's capacity to tolerate both strong-minded individuals and people with the kind of managerial flair which the Next Steps initiative for dividing the Civil Service up into semi-autonomous executive agencies is supposed to be all about.

What Mr Caines has been doing for the past 18 months is preparing for what on paper was going to be the biggest sign of the Government's seriousness about reforming the way Whitehall manages such essential public services as the provision of income support to the poor, the registration of companies, the issuing of driving licences and the processing of the unemployed.

When, three weeks ago,

the Department of Social Security advertised for a new chief executive of its Benefits Agency, due to be inaugurated in April 1991, Mr Caines looked a front runner for the position.

He is, by all accounts, a rare bird in Whitehall, someone who can reach down the administrative machine and stimulate the army of clerical and executive workers.

With a great deal of emphasis on improving service to the public, Mr Caines has been up and down the social security network, cajoling and informing, doing what the management jargon calls "cultural change" - trying to make people who have done a job in a certain way for ages change their attitude.

So did he apply? Mr Caines is graded a deputy secretary, the rank behind permanent secretary. Departmental insiders say there was lively discussion, a while back, about grading the benefits job as an under secretary's post. At that point, the conspiracy theorists take over.

Mr Caines's wife, Karen, was one of authors of the Next Steps report, accepted by the Prime Minister in February 1988 after being submitted to her by Sir Robin Ibbs, the efficiency adviser. For him to be denied a leading role in the Social Security Benefits Agency looks, to some people, like a sharp rebuff to those (among them the Prime Minister's watchdog on the progress of Next Steps, Mr Peter Kemp) who want energetic chief executives running the show. It looks like a victory for the permanent secretaries' club.

So has Mr Caines been rebuffed? It is commonplace in Richmond House, headquarters of the Department of Social Security, that there is no love lost between Mr Caines and his Permanent Secretary, Mr Michael Partridge, and between Mr Caines and his fellow deputy secretaries, notably Mr John Mayne, the ex-Ministry of Defence type who till now has been counted a proponent of managerial reform.

Was Mr Caines told he would not get the job - the award of which, although monitored by the Civil Service Commission, is effectively controlled by the permanent secretaries?

Becoming head of personnel in the NHS will not look like a demotion to most people, but his departure from social security will cause a lot of grief within the benefits office network; Mr Caines's protégés within the DSS are already being moved away from sensitive managerial areas.

Is the benefits agency job being reserved for somebody who will be compliant, who will not threaten the position of those at the top of the Civil Service tree? If so, it augurs badly for the success of the Next Steps programme.

Did Mr Partridge face the prospect of having not much of a job to do if a powerful figure took over the running of the benefits agency and set to protect his interests? Watch this space for news of whether that figure now turns out to be a lot less threatening than Mr Caines would have been.

David Walker

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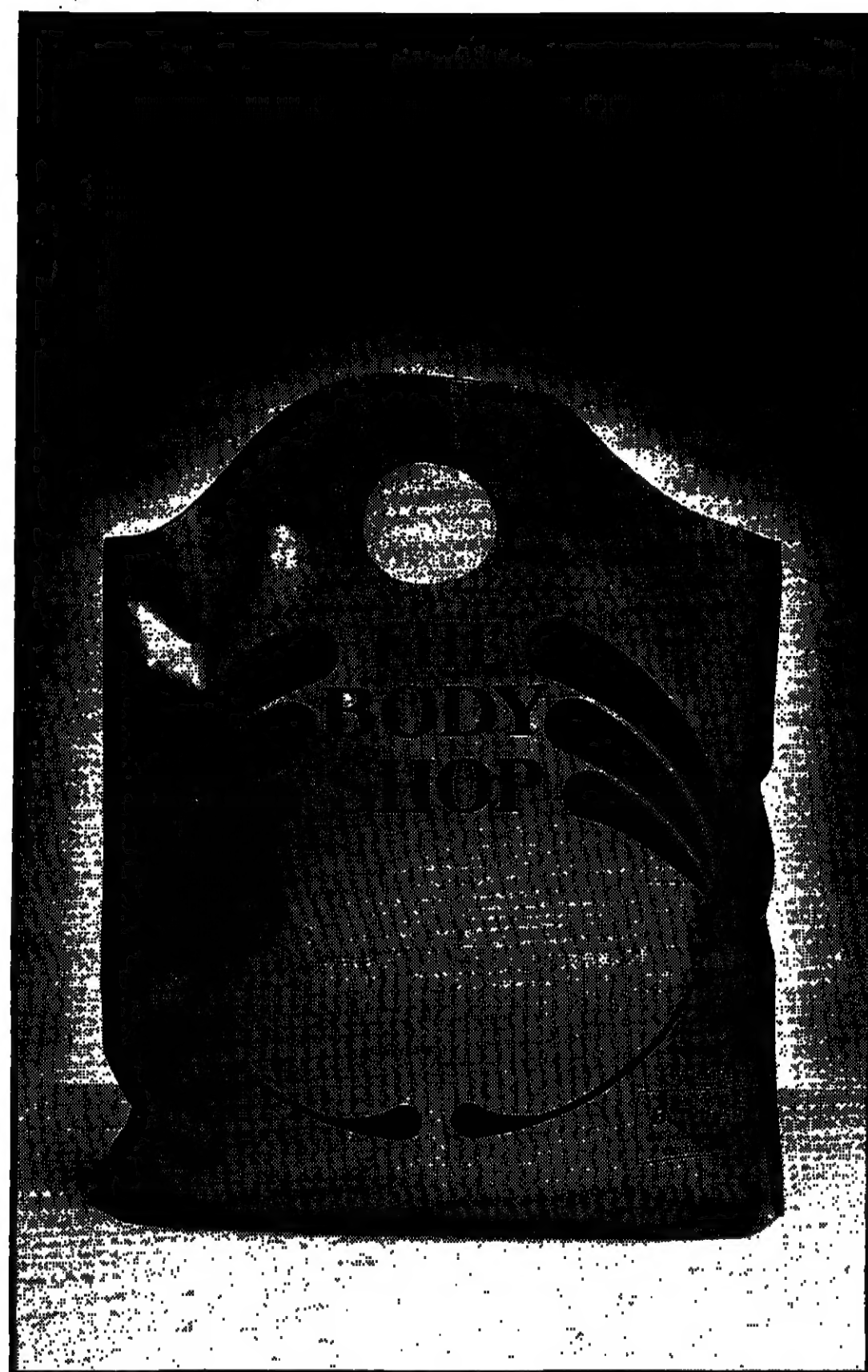
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Israeli Government teeters as Labour ministers walk out

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israel's coalition Government faces almost certain collapse today over proposed Middle East peace talks, with Labour finally concluding that the gap between its policy on the Palestinian issue and that of Likud, the dominant coalition partner, cannot be bridged.

The right wing of Likud has campaigned with growing success against US terms for the historic talks on the grounds that they would lead to direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization and place Israeli control over the whole of Jerusalem in doubt.

Last night last-ditch efforts were under way to avert the break-up of the coalition formed by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, 15 months ago. But yesterday Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, led a walkout of Labour ministers from a crucial Cabinet session following Mr Shamir's refusal to put US terms for an unprecedented dialogue with the Palestinians in Cairo to the test.

Diplomatic manoeuvring over the past year, involving the US, Egypt and Israel, has come within an ace of setting up the first talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation in the 42 years of the Jewish state's existence. But after yesterday's refusal by Mr Shamir to take a decision, Mr Peres declared: "This is the end of the agreement which is the basis for continuing the national unity government."

The Labour Central Committee convenes today to decide whether to carry out its ultimatum — already postponed once — to withdraw from the coalition.

If Labour does withdraw, it is likely to call a vote of no confidence in Mr Shamir in the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow. This could lead to the formation of a new coalition, with the religious parties — the "third force" in Israeli politics — holding the balance of power and deciding

whether to support a Labour or Likud government.

But observers believe it more likely that the crisis will lead to new elections. The last elections in November, 1988, gave Likud a slight edge but not enough to govern alone.

With violent unrest mounting in east Jerusalem and the occupied territories, Palestinian moderates were dismayed yesterday by the apparent breakdown of Labour-Likud negotiations.

After weeks of bargaining, threats and counter-threats the coalition talks had narrowed down to US demands, presented by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, over

Agents accused

Jerusalem (AP) — The District Court here has indicted two Shin Bet security service agents on manslaughter charges in the death of a prisoner, Khaled Kamel Al Sheikh Ali, last December. The Justice Ministry said they questioned him and "... dealt blows to Sheikh Ali, and as a result Sheikh Ali suffered internal bleeding that led to his death."

The composition of the Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks on elections in the occupied territories. Last week Mr Baker warned Mr Shamir by telephone that both time and US patience were running out.

Palestinian hardliners, who — like Likud right-wingers, but for different reasons — have opposed compromise all along, yesterday welcomed the failure to reach agreement. Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organization, which is especially powerful in the Gaza Strip, called for a jihad or Muslim holy war against Israel.

The issue which has finally brought the coalition to the edge of collapse is Mr Baker's proposal that the Palestinian delegation should include not only Arabs deported from the

occupied territories for offences during the *Intifada*, or uprising, but also Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem who have a second address on the West Bank.

Just over a week ago President Bush, in a remark little noticed until Mr Shamir reacted angrily to it, noted that the West regarded east Jerusalem as "occupied" in the same sense as the West Bank and Gaza. The settling of Soviet Jews in occupied areas has become a source of US-Israeli tension, with Washington arguing that it creates fresh obstacles to peace.

It remains unclear whether Mr Bush's intervention was an attempt to show Mr Shamir Washington meant business and thus push Israel the extra mile towards peace talks, or a disastrously timed gaffe.

But yesterday Likud right-wingers, such as Mr Ariel Sharon and Mr David Levy, Mr Shamir's deputy, said US pressure had not only raised the spectre of eventual talks with the PLO, which both Labour and Likud regard as terrorist, but had also aroused deep fears that Israeli sovereignty over united Jerusalem would be placed in jeopardy.

Labour denies that including east Jerusalem Arabs in either the negotiating team or the subsequent elections would reopen the question of Jerusalem.

On the eve of yesterday's Cabinet meeting Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, who is a key Labour figure, suggested a compromise under which Israel would accept the Baker plan but leave the issue of east Jerusalem Arabs for the Knesset to decide. But Mr Shamir refused to put this to the vote.

In riots apparently sparked off by Mr Bush's remarks on the status of east Jerusalem, two Palestinians were killed at the weekend during clashes with troops in Shufat refugee camp, in east Jerusalem.

SAS-style teams in Istanbul siege



Special anti-terrorist teams discussing tactics yesterday before storming an Istanbul flat where three hostages had been held for 17 hours. All escaped safely and their armed captor was wounded in the six-minute operation (Rasit Gardilek writes). The action brought to an end a drama in which one police officer was killed, and two policemen and two other suspected terrorists injured.

The special teams were flown in from Ankara. They stormed the 11th-floor flat after the hostages — two carpenters and a grocer's apprentice — escaped through a kitchen window with the help of the

police, officials said. The members of the special unit wore black masks and carried up-to-date weapons, ropes and hooks associated with the SAS. The seriously injured suspect was rushed to a hospital where six bullets were removed from his body, sources said.

The episode started on Saturday when police, hunting for the killers of a journalist, spotted a car that had been commandeered the day before. The three occupants, when challenged, were said to have opened fire, killing one police officer and injuring two others. The three were followed to the vicinity of a mental

hospital, where two suspects — one a Kurdish woman — were wounded and captured. The third ran into a residential area near by and barricaded himself in the flat together with the hostages. At the end of their ordeal, the hostages told reporters that the suspect, already wounded in the shoulder, had treated them well. They said they escaped one by one with police help after the exhausted gunman became drowsy in the morning.

The captured man said he belonged to the Armed Unit of People, an unknown offshoot of the underground Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party.

Election pledge by Haiti general

By Alan Tomlinson

Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril has caved in to nationwide protests and resigned as President of Haiti and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

He was immediately succeeded by Major-General Herard Abraham, the Army's acting chief of staff, who promised to turn the country over to a provisional civilian government within 72 hours.

General Abraham now heads the fifth government since President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country four years ago. The provisional Government's goal, he said in a televised statement on Saturday, would be to organize general elections.

There was no announcement about the composition of the interim administration, but it is expected to include a provisional President chosen from the Supreme Court and a 19-member Council of State selected from organizations representing various sectors of Haitian society and its eight rural provinces.

Diplomatic sources expect elections to be called within three to six months.

The announcement of General Avril's resignation was greeted by spontaneous celebrations throughout the capital, Port-au-Prince. But there were violent incidents and six bodies were found in a house in a city suburb.

A big concern after General Avril's resignation was the possible reaction of the 1,200-man presidential guard, but informed sources said it was their understanding understood that the guardsmen would be disbanded and assigned to other army units.

General Avril is expected to go into exile within a few days. Washington — A US State Department spokesman said the Bush Administration "would be prepared to help the provisional government to conduct free and fair elections under international observation at the earliest possible date".

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pledge by Thais on death railway

Sydney (AFP) — Mr Chatichai Choonhavan, the Thai Prime Minister, has assured Australians he will block an attempt to turn the Burma death railway into a tourist attraction. Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, said yesterday Mr Chatichai had expressed his Government's opposition to proposals to use actors to play Japanese soldiers and allied prisoners on the line.

About 100,000 prisoners of war, including Australians, Britons, and other nationalities died during the construction of the Thailand-to-Burma line during the occupation by the Japanese in the Second World War. Mr Hawke said in a television interview that Mr Chatichai had sent him a message saying that he would never allow the desecration of the memory of the Australians who died.

Namibia joins 'family'

Namibia will join the Commonwealth on March 21, when it achieves independence from South Africa, it was announced yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes). The last colony in Africa will become the 50th member of an organization which the Queen today describes as a family. In her annual Commonwealth Day message she says: "We greet each other as members of the biggest and most unusual family on earth." Its comparative lack of rules, its human richness and geographical diversity made it as hard to define as it was easy to criticize, she said. Observers feel the organization has been under strain since 1985 because of differences over sanctions against South Africa. Namibia, a former German colony, has been administered by South Africa since 1915.

Mandela told to rest

Dar es Salaam (AFP) — Mr Nelson Mandela, aged 71, winding up a six-day tour of Tanzania, was ordered by a doctor yesterday to rest. The Deputy President of the African National Congress was visibly flagging when he addressed a rally on Saturday at Morogoro, 120 miles west of here. He spoke for less than three minutes to a crowd which had waited more than five hours to see him, and later his remaining engagement at an ANC college just out of town was cancelled on the order of a doctor. On Friday night, he told a crowd who turned out to see him at Iringa, 250 miles south-west of here that he had defied doctor's orders by coming out in the rain. He said he had a bad cough.

Leading article, page 15

Mozambique hope

Harare — An unexpected meeting at the end of last week between the leaders of Zimbabwe and Malawi have rekindled hopes for negotiations for a settlement to the 14-year-old war in Mozambique, at an impasse almost since they began eight months ago (Jan Rasch writes). President Mugabe flew to the Malawian capital of Lilongwe on Friday and after talks with Dr Kamuzu Banda said he was gratified that he had received "a favourable response" from Dr Banda, whose Government had "accepted its obligation" to "co-operate in the pursuit of peace in the region".

Michelin accolade

Paris — For the first time in gastronomic history, a hotel restaurant has achieved the coveted third star in the *Guide Michelin* (Philip Jacobson writes). A preview of the 1990 issue, to be published later this week, reveals that the distinction has gone to the Louis XV at Monte Carlo's Hôtel de Paris and chef M Alain Ducasse. Michelin's previous refusal to award the accolade to a hotel restaurant sprang, some feel, from the belief that the business of coping with guests as opposed to diners would somehow detract from the seriousness with which great cooking must be approached.

Arab boost for Cairo

Cairo — Egypt's return to the centre of the Arab stage was cemented yesterday by an announcement that the 22-member Arab League will move its headquarters back to Cairo in September after 11 years in Tunis where it moved after Egypt made peace with Israel (Christopher Walker writes). With the exception of Libya, all League members have now restored diplomatic ties with Egypt.

The conflict in Afghanistan

Kabul mutiny splits rebels

From Zahid Hussain, Peshawar

The abortive coup against President Najibullah of Afghanistan has left Pakistan's Afghan policy in a complete shambles and the Mujahidin more divided than ever.

The moderate Mujahidin leaders in Peshawar have accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, the intelligence wing of the Army, of orchestrating and bungling the coup attempt.

Except for the extreme Islamic fundamentalist group, Hezbi-i Islami, led by Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, all the moderate Mujahidin groups refused to support the military uprising by the Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, despite intense pressure from Pakistani officials. They described it as a revolt of hardline communists against Dr Najibullah.

"We cannot be a party to the infighting between the two communist groups," said Professor Sibghatullah Mujadidi, president of the Mujahidin's Afghan interim government.

Professor Mujadidi said that the coup leader, General Shahnawaz Tanai, the former Afghan Defence Minister,

represented extremist groups of the ruling PDPA and if successful would have created more problems for the Afghan people.

According to the Mujahidin sources, the leaders of the six-party coalition Afghan interim government were summoned by Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, on Tuesday night after the coup attempt. She asked them to support the military uprising in Kabul, but the Mujahidin refused.

Pakistani officials later ascribed the Mujahidin's failure



Dr Najibullah, delivering a speech in Kabul yesterday.

to move quickly in support of the coup as the main cause for its defeat. The March 6 coup attempt failed within 24 hours. General Tanai and his fellow rebel generals have now taken refuge in Pakistan and President Najibullah is firmly back in the saddle.

Western diplomats and observers here believe that the latest events may lead to fresh alignments and permutations of political forces. There are also indications that Pakistani influence over different Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups may diminish further.

According to an American diplomat, the Mujahidin field commanders and Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups might now be tempted to form their own alliances with different factions of the PDPA. "This will lead to further chaos and make the chances for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghan crisis much more difficult," the diplomat said.

The most interesting aspect of the abortive coup was the unusual alliance of the extreme left-wing Khalq of the PDPA and the extreme-right Islamic fundamentalists of Hezbi-i Islami.

Florence police chief gives blacks marching orders

From Richard Bassett, Rome

The centre of Florence has been declared virtually off-limits to black immigrants from today by Signor Vittorio Parisi, the city's police chief.

In a statement issued yesterday after a weekend of racist attacks by groups of Florentine skinheads on African immigrant traders, the police chief said he would use laws against theft, drug trafficking and prostitution to clear the traders from the area.

The violence has changed the city, which is the cradle of Renaissance culture, with an almost medieval air of menace. Along the Arno, groups of Africans walk warily, avoiding parks and dark corners.

More than 200 extra police detectives were drafted into the city yesterday to assist the local carabinieri, who have dealt with a score of incidents involving groups of between 20 and 30 skinheads, some affiliated to an organization calling itself The Front for the Defence of Italian Rights. The groups have attacked African traders with fists and sticks.

The traders have become a familiar sight near most tourist attractions in the city. At the weekend Signor Parisi left journalists in no doubt that he

felt the ban was for the benefit of Florentine traders, who have long complained at the Africans' activities.

The extra police would be involved in checking the papers of the immigrants rather than in protecting them from attack, he implied at a press conference. "Who comes to Florence has made a mistake," he said. "It is very difficult for such people to remain here. The city centre must be cleared, because the Florentines are angry."

Signor Parisi's words have shocked several Florentine politicians and provoked yesterday's protests from representatives of the 20,000 immigrants who have descended on Florence from Senegal and Ivory Coast in the last year.

Their arrival has coincided with a dramatic rise in Italian resentment towards coloured immigrants. A recent survey found that more than 37 per cent of the population was in favour of repatriating all coloured immigrants.

Yesterday Signor Giorgio Morales, the Mayor of Florence, distanced himself from the words of the police chief, saying that he had hoped for a

few more days to find a different solution.

But the police chief's decision was welcomed by many Florentines, who have openly applauded the racist attacks and have criticized the Mayor for being "too soft".

Until yesterday Signor Morales had hoped to be able to find three sites near the city centre where the immigrants could sell their goods, which range from plastic African souvenirs to fake Louis Vuitton luggage. This solution has now been forestalled.

According to Signor Parisi, more than 50 per cent of petty crime in Florence is caused by the *extracomunitari*, as the immigrants are called here. He was indifferent to claims by the Africans' representative that they were not involved with drugs and prostitution.

Some Italians point out that their trade is encouraged actively by the Mafia. The African immigrants often receive only board and lodging from the suppliers of the goods they sell. Any profits that they make are passed on to criminal groups, which have harnessed what must be the cheapest labour force in Europe.

Texans milk the drama in battle to be governor

From Martin Fletcher, Austin, Texas

It is a tale of fame and double-dealing, with just a dash of sex. There are good guys and villains, born losers and opportunists. In the state that gave the world *Dallas* it is the year of the governor's race, one of the two most important elections of the year in America.

In Texas, sound policies, competence, principle and personal integrity count for little. The one vital commodity is dollars — millions of them. Dollars buy airline, and airline wins votes.

In a state of 17 million people and which is nearly three times the size of Britain, there is really no alternative, and by the time a new governor is elected next November the candidates will have spent a record \$50 million (\$32 million) or more. From the arid desert of the west to the glittering galleries of Houston and Dallas, the candidates are dutifully criss-crossing the Lone Star state in their executive jets.

But they know that no amount of speeches or hand-shaking can substitute for the skillfully crafted 30-second television spots dreamed up by their media experts. In the process they are transformed from flesh-and-blood beings to larger-than-life celluloid creations.

Take Mr Clayton Williams, aged 58, a self-made multi-millionaire

rancher, oilman and entrepreneur. He has never run for political office but thanks to a barrage of brilliant ads has leapt from obscurity to become Republican frontrunner.

He has already committed \$3.5 million of his own money to the campaign and promises to spend what it takes. Opponents claim he is trying to buy his way to the governor's mansion, running not on the strength of his ideas but on "the thickness of his wallet".

In life he is barely 5 ft 8 in in his cowboy boots and Texan hat, but the ads show "Claydie" riding

● If you want a patsy, that ain't me... If you want a fighter, I'm your man ●

around his ranch, promising to make Texas great again, invoking the spirit of the Alamo and calling for military-style boot camps to teach drug offenders "the joys of busting rocks".

He likens cutting the state budget to separating steers from heifers. "If you want a patsy in the governor's office, that ain't me," he tells packed rallies. "If you want a fighter, I'm your man."

Texans love it. His Republican opponents emphatically do not. "At

some point the public and press are going to ask, 'Who is this guy?'" said an exasperated Mr Kent Hance, a career politician and Texas Railroad Commissioner. He has done his bit to enlighten them. He paid a Republican Party operative \$5,000 to investigate Mr Williams and found he drank and brawled.

Mr Williams was thrilled by the revelations. Yes, he liked a few beers, and yes, he had once slugged a sacked employee who was harassing his staff. "I decked him and if he'd got up I'd have worked him some more," Mr Williams ratings jumped still further.

Somewhere Mr Hance's own image-makers have slipped up. He is widely perceived as an opportunist, a finger-in-the-wheel politician who will do or say anything to win. A former Democrat congressman who switched parties, he entered the race after Mr George Bush Jr, the President's Texas-based son, decided not to stand. Mr Hance has lost his last two statewide elections. Opponents now call him "Last Chance Hance".

Mr Tom Luce, a moderate, urbane Dallas lawyer, is the third serious Republican candidate in the March 13 primaries. He is the candidate of the Republican establishment and has plenty of wealthy supporters.

Rivalry between Dallas and Houston ensures he will get a lot of

home-town support. Though a poor third now, one big television blitz could yet lift him past Mr Hance for a place in the run-off with Mr Williams — a battle between the Republican Party's BMW and pick-up truck wars.

The Democrats have their own star turn in Mrs Ann Richards. The gutsy, silver-haired Mrs Richards has a fanatical following among women and the millions of Texas Hispanics, but few big backers and just \$1.2 million in the bank. She believes in people power, and her ability to "work" an elevator, a

● What I need is a big cheque. With money you buy time and with time you win ●

sidewalk or an aircraft with warm Texan "How're y'all's" is remarkable. But at a recent lunch with a score of prominent Democrats in El Paso, she confessed: "What I need really very much is for you to write me a big cheque. With money you buy time and with time you win."

Close behind Mrs Richards in the polls is Mr Mark White, a former governor attempting a comeback. He is second now, largely because he has name recognition, but has even less money and, claims the Richards

camp, surreptitiously borrowed \$1 million from a bank to give his campaign credibility.

The man she does fear, though currently a poor third, is the Texas Attorney-General, Mr Jim Mattox, an abrasive, go-for-the-jugular politician who is sitting on a massive \$4 million war chest.

Historically Democrat, Texas became a genuine two-party state during the 1980s. Holding on to the governorship is vital to the Republican Party's hopes of eventually capturing the US House of Representatives. The Democrat-controlled state legislature will redraw Texas's congressional voting districts following this year's US Census and the governor alone can veto that "redistricting" if, as expected, it is strongly partisan.

That means the primaries are mere curtain-raiser for the election proper, which promises to be a stupendous battle — Williams versus Richards, ardent conservative against fervent liberal, cowboy versus feminist. The national parties will pour in resources, and two new characters will join the cast.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the state's Democrat colossus and likely presidential candidate in 1992, would throw his enormous clout behind Mrs Richards. Pulling out every stop for Mr Williams would be a former Houston congressman — President Bush.

Two faces of Iraq revealed by reports of human rights abuses

Liberal screen fails to hide ruthless Saddam

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The fate of Farzad Bazoft, the Iranian-born reporter of *The Observer*, who was sentenced to death on Saturday for spying in Iraq, has focused attention on one of the Arab world's most ruthless leaders, President Saddam Hussein, who according to Middle East legal experts is the only person with the power to commute the sentence.

The Iraqi leader, known to his many enemies as "the Butcher of Baghdad", has been striving to improve his tarnished international image by pledging political reforms, including a new constitution, and moving to loosen central control over Iraq's debt-ridden economy.

The President has been branded an "Arab Ceausescu" and his despotic regime, with its strong dynastic content, frequently compared with that toppled in Bucharest last December.

These accusations are bitterly resented in Baghdad, where strict restrictions on the Western press (most correspondents, like Bazoft, have first to be invited to enter) are designed to minimize on-the-spot reporting of the many allegations of serious breaches of human rights.

As the British Foreign Office commented tartly when describing the draconian sentences imposed on Bazoft,

aged 31, and his friend, Mrs Daphne Parish, a British nurse condemned to spend 15 years behind bars in a country not renowned for the enlightenment of its penal policies: "They come ill from a regime which is trying to show a more liberal face to the world."

The two faces of Iraq have been shown up by a damning series of reports on its violations of elementary human freedoms. These are in contrast to President Saddam's declaration to Arab legislators that forthcoming political reforms will allow the country of 17 million more press freedom and the formation of political parties.

Even on Saturday, as the sentences were being handed down after a 5½-hour trial



President Saddam: Trying to repair a tarnished image.

behind closed doors — dismissed by Western officials as "a legal farce" — the Iraqi leader was again trying to win world approval by offering a surprise unconditional amnesty to all exiled Kurds.

The most damning recent attack on Iraq's human rights record came last month with the publication of a report by Middle East Watch, a new American monitoring group. It attacked the Baghdad regime for the ruthless suppression of dissent and accused Western governments of cynically playing it down for their own economic and strategic considerations.

Since its self-proclaimed "victory" in the eight-year Gulf War, Iraq has emerged as a regional power to be reckoned with, prepared to flex its well-tested military muscles.

The report by the New York-based group described the Baghdad Government as "one of the most brutal and repressive regimes in power today", and claimed that, among the abuses it had documented, were "forced relocation and deportation, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, disappearance and summary and political execution".

It claimed Iraq had made significant attempts to improve its image in the United States, employing American

lobby groups to try to pressure Congress and to place favourable comments in the news media.

Although it claimed that the British public was better informed about the true human rights situation in Iraq, it noted that British export credits for manufactured goods were greater than those of any Western nation, totalling an estimated £2.5 billion between 1984 and 1988.

Iraq's badly denied image was hit again a week after the report's publication when Mr Armando Valladares, the US Ambassador, told the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva that Iraq was among six countries using torture and committing other grave human rights violations.

Mr Nizar Handoussa, Under Secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, again pledged that a draft constitution would be ratified soon "to guarantee basic freedoms for human beings and pave the way before licensing (opposition) parties".

President Saddam has pursued a personality cult of Stalinist proportions which is maintained by giant portraits of himself around the country. Although he is vain and ruthless, he is widely regarded as uncorrupt and remains popular, particularly in the armed forces.



Family visit: Miss Michelle de Vries, daughter of Mrs Daphne Parish, who was sentenced on Saturday to 15 years' imprisonment for spying, outside the Iraqi Embassy in London.

Lebanese urged to keep their hostages

Cairo — Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a prominent Iranian radical, has urged Lebanese kidnappers to keep their Western hostages, claiming that freeing them now would "unleash the blood-drinking wolves" (Christopher Walker writes).

The former Interior Minister, who was instrumental in forming Hezbollah (the Party of God), the group mainly responsible for the kidnappings, alleged in an editorial in the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan* that Mr Terry Waite, abducted in 1987, was spying for the West in Lebanon.

Beirut blast

Beirut (Reuter) — About 20 people were hurt when a booby-trapped car exploded near a Syrian military base in west Beirut yesterday, and at least one civilian died in battles between rival Christian groups.

Islanders vote

Moroni (AFP) — As voting began in the second round run-off presidential election in the Indian Ocean Comoros Islands, Mr Mohamed Taki, an opposition candidate, complained of irregularities.

Plotters 'alive'

Jakarta (AFP) — Six prisoners, reported to be on their way to the firing squad for their part in a 1965 coup attempt, were still alive yesterday, Indonesian military and human rights sources said.

Rights inquiry

Mogadishu (Reuter) — Somalia's new government has invited US Congressmen, human rights groups and journalists to investigate claims of rights abuses.

Prison pledge

Khartoum (AFP) — All political prisoners in Sudan — except those charged with corruption — are to be released, Mr Ali Mohammed Shum, the Interior Minister, said.

Pisa hope

Pisa (AFP) — The Leaning Tower of Pisa — closed on January 7 for safety reasons — could be re-opened in three years — if red tape does not slow restoration work.

France besieged over EC agencies

From Michael Mayne, Brussels

European Community finance ministers will put strong pressure on France today to back down in its threat to hold up the establishment of four European agencies until Strasbourg is made the permanent site for the European Parliament's meetings.

The four bodies include the European Environment Agency, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Eastern Europe, the EC Trademark Office and the European Training Foundation, another body set up to help Eastern Europe.

All EC members agree on the urgency of the new agencies beginning work, especially the bank, and the

ministers will call today for a swift start to its operations.

Today Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will launch his bid for London as the bank's headquarters, saying the City is unrivalled in banking expertise.

But the prospects of an early decision on its siting have been worsened by France's threat of blackmail over Strasbourg.

France's stand has angered its EC partners and many MEPs. Last week the largest faction in the European Parliament, the 180-strong Socialist group, voted overwhelmingly to end the monthly trek to Strasbourg, which they said was costing taxpayers £40

million a year.

The group is seeking a vote this week on renting a chamber and office building in Brussels. A suitable assembly chamber has been built beside the Parliament's Brussels headquarters.

President Mitterrand, stepping up his campaign to keep the Parliament in Strasbourg, announced last week that a new 750-seat chamber would be built in Strasbourg, to accommodate any extra MEPs joining after German reunification and if other European states became EC members.

France has found an ally in Luxembourg, which is also afraid of losing its profitable

European offices to Brussels. The European Parliament's secretariat is based in the Grand Duchy and is threatening to move. For three months of the year, EC ministers hold their meetings in Luxembourg. They, too, believe it would be better to hold them permanently in Brussels, where the main EC missions are based.

The Irish presidency is pushing a package deal. But its latest attempts at behind-the-scenes compromise found no country ready to support any size but its own for the four new agencies. All but one of the 12 member states have cities bidding to house the environment agency alone.

Pilots allowed to smoke amid fear of 'cold turkey' landings

From Charles Bremner, New York

Fears that jittery, nicotine-deprived pilots could rush to land their aircraft and light up have led the US authorities to exempt flight crews from a new law that bans smoking on virtually all domestic routes.

The Federal Aviation Administration decided to allow captains, co-pilots and flight engineers to carry on smoking after a study warned that a smoking pilot going "cold turkey" could suffer withdrawal symptoms that could lead him to endanger his aircraft.

The new law, which came into effect this month, prohib-

its smoking on all flights of less than six hours.

Dr Andrew Horne, an official of the FAA, said a 1987 study showed that "the effects of withdrawal in a habitual smoker are associated with a decline in vigilance, in concentration and with increased irritability."

Smokers' lobby groups immediately attacked the pilots' exemption as illogical and unjust. But Mr Dave Brenton of the Smokers' Rights Alliance said: "If a cigarette is helpful to the pilot and co-pilot in a stressful situation, let them have it. I

just wish people were as sympathetic with airline passengers who find flying stressful."

Dr Horne, however, disagreed. "There is a lot of difference. A smoker in the back of the plane is not instrumental to the safety of the flight and the pilot certainly is," he said.

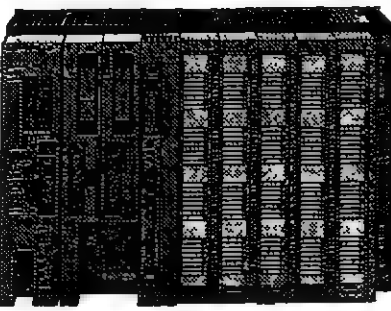
Meanwhile the FAA said it was cracking down on flight crews who drank alcohol within eight hours of take-off. The move follows the arrest last Thursday of all three members of the flight crew of a Northwest Airlines Boeing

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Challenges grow to Gorbachov presidency

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's plan to institute the new post of Executive President was yesterday facing outright opposition from several non-Slav republics whose governments fear a threat to their growing autonomy.

Two separate parliamentary groups also expressed misgivings about the new post, and one nominated the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, and the Interior Minister, Mr Vladimir Bakatin, to stand as alternative candidates against Mr Gorbachov.

The legislation establishing the presidency is due to be discussed at an emergency meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies today. It would give the President the power to suspend the Constitution and rule by decree anywhere in the Soviet Union. Delegations from at

least four — and possibly six — of the country's 15 republics have said they will boycott discussion of the presidency at the Congress, which is the only body empowered to make the necessary constitutional changes.

Among them, the Baltic republic of Lithuania, whose newly elected parliament has decided to seek secession from the Soviet Union, is not sending a delegation to the Congress at all. Estonia is sending a delegation, but has instructed it not to take part in the debate on the presidency, and Latvia was expected to take a similar decision.

On Saturday an emergency meeting of the supreme soviet in the republic of Georgia instructed its delegates to go to the Congress but not to participate in the debate. Deputies from the Trans-Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan were believed to be considering their position. All have

powerful nationalist or popular front groups which are committed to enhancing their republics' independence, if not actual secession.

A boycott of the proceedings, even by as many as six republics, would not prevent the legislation going through, because the draft law states only that a majority of those present has to approve the measure. It would, however, jeopardize the constitutional effectiveness of the post, because those republics which do not take part are unlikely to recognize the authority of the new President on their territory.

One of the main intentions of the new post — to provide a strong centralizing influence — could thus be thwarted.

Even without the dissenting republics, however, the law on the presidency will encounter vociferous — if poorly co-ordinated — opposition when discussions begin

today. A weekend meeting of the reformist Inter-Regional Group of parliamentary deputies in Moscow spent almost 11 hours in acrimonious debate, trying to formulate a coherent stance on the presidency.

Some used the now familiar argument that the depth of the present crisis called for the President to have stronger powers and said the Group should vote for the measure. Others wanted a decision to be delegated in the first instance to the newly elected parliaments in the republics and argued for abstention.

Yet others disapproved of the whole idea, warning of dictatorship, and called for a "No" vote. They accused spokesmen for the other two views of weakening the position of the Group by bargaining on Mr Gorbachov's terms.

The Inter-Regional Group, whose leader, Mr Boris Yeltsin, was attending the Central Com-

mittee plenum, finally decided to approve the principle of the presidency while quibbling with the proposed practice. Its concluding document recommended that Mr Gorbachov's present powers should be enhanced as necessary for one year to cope with the present problems.

If the Congress, none the less, approved the new presidency, it reserved the right to nominate a new chairman for the Supreme Soviet (the present parliamentary post held by Mr Gorbachov).

Another parliamentary group — Soyuz, or Union — which unites an uneasy combination of economic reformers and political conservatives around the principle that the Soviet Union should be held together at all costs, also agreed to support the idea of the presidency, but decided to nominate alternative candidates to preserve the democratic principle. The original

preferred candidate was Mr Ryzhkov, although one participant mentioned Mr Yegor Ligachov's name in passing. However, fearing that Mr Ryzhkov would cede the post to Mr Gorbachov without a vote, it was decided to nominate Mr Bakatin as well.

Soyuz, which claims some 120 members of the total of 2,250 Congress of People's Deputies, compared with the Inter-Regional Group's more than 400, was set up last month with a programme that calls for stronger central leadership, an end to nationalist disputes, and the protection of equal "human rights" for all — in which it includes Russians living in non-Russian republics.

Although its programme would appear to appeal to Russian nationalists and old-style communists in the republics, several prominent members are known as reformers.

Deposed leader accuses Krenz

From Anne McElvoy
East Berlin

Herr Eric Honecker, East Germany's former leader, yesterday broke his five-month silence on the developments in the country and accused his successor, Herr Egon Krenz, of driving it into the arms of West Germany.

He also said that he holds Herr Krenz personally responsible for the collapse of national morale and the decline of the communist party.

In a three-page handwritten letter to the Danish Communist Party, published today in its newspaper *Land and People*, Herr Honecker, who is to be tried for treason, corruption and abuse of office, accused Herr Krenz of having "lamed, discredited and finally destroyed" the communist party.

The letter is Herr Honecker's first public comment on the situation in East Germany since he was ousted from office by Herr Krenz in October, and was written as a reply to an offer by the Danish Communist Party to give him sanctuary.

In it he claimed that Herr Krenz showed "no regard for socialist democracy" when he was responsible for state security and the armed forces in the former Politburo. It also accuses him of having developed a secret defence policy which was never presented to the party congress for its approval.

Herr Honecker declined the offer of help from Denmark, saying that he was awaiting trial and forbidden to leave East Germany. He was rumoured to have been preparing to go to Denmark before he was charged earlier this year.

Herr Honecker is currently living in the home of a vicar in a charitable community outside East Berlin and is expected to stand trial in the coming weeks.

Herr Krenz yesterday told *The Times* that he was "completely astounded" by Herr Honecker's outburst. "I cannot believe that he really means it," he said. "I cannot imagine what this is supposed to achieve."

Relations between the former colleagues have cooled since Herr Krenz claimed that he hindered an order by Herr Honecker to fire on demonstrators in Leipzig in October, and there has been no contact between the two men since.

In a private conversation in November, Herr Honecker told Herr Krenz that the reform programme he had introduced "would end in tears".

Man in the News: Vitautas Landsbergis

Century-old family links to Lithuanian national rebirth

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

The name of Landsbergis has been associated with two periods of "national rebirth" in Lithuania. The family of Dr Vitautas Landsbergis, elected yesterday as President of the republic's supreme soviet, is of Swedish origin, but became part of the emerging Lithuanian bourgeoisie in the 19th century.

His father was a distinguished Lithuanian playwright and journalist, exiled to Siberia for resistance to the rule of the Tsars.

As such, he played a leading role in re-creating a Lithuanian literary language, in opposition not only to the Russians but also to the Poles. Polish culture had come to dominate Lithuania in the centuries after the two states formed a union in the Middle Ages, and the Lithuanian language for a long time declined almost to the status of a group of peasant dialects.

Since the Lithuanian nobility had become almost completely polonized, the leading part in this "national rebirth" was played by bourgeois intellectual families like the Landsbergis.

Dr Landsbergis's father is a distinguished architect and was an officer in the independence struggle against Russians, Germans and Poles after 1918. He also played a part in trying to regain Lithuanian independence under German and Soviet rule in the 1940s and was jailed by the new Soviet regime.

He is still alive, and yesterday sent a message of congratulation to the supreme

soviet. The deputy who read it, referring to his patriotic services, called him "the patriarch of national rebirth".

Dr Landsbergis himself could be called a patriarch. He is 58 years old — he was born in 1932 — and is a grandfather. By profession he is a musician and teacher at the Vilnius Conservatoire.

As such, he won a prize for his work on the Lithuanian composer and painter, Mikolajus Ciurlionis. In all this,

tower" occupation that it may have seemed. Ciurlionis was regarded under traditional Soviet rule in Lithuania as a most dangerous force, both because of his nationalism, and because his works express the religious mysticism, combined with slightly pagan elements, so characteristic of Lithuanian religion.

Ciurlionis's works were almost impossible to acquire in Lithuania under the rule of former Soviet leaders, and to

own gift as a politician and diplomat. He became leader of Sajudis in preference to other candidates above all through his ability to settle differences and personality clashes in this extremely broad political umbrella group.

Quiet diplomacy seems the essence of Dr Landsbergis's personality. In appearance he is extremely unassuming, and when set against his erstwhile main rival, the Communist Party leader and President, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the comparison suggests that between a mole and a bull.

Dr Landsbergis's mole-like qualities are only accentuated when he wears his favourite brown corduroy jacket. He has a round figure with stooped shoulders and the face of a 19th-century professor with receding hair and a small beard. One of his colleagues, however, warned me not to let his appearance mislead me as to his qualities of determination.

He described how on one occasion in Moscow Dr Landsbergis found himself confronting the Soviet Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov. The general began the interview by storming and blustering, but Dr Landsbergis stuck quietly to his position and in the end, according to his colleague, General Yazov had to give way and argue on Dr Landsbergis's terms.

"Vitautas has lots of patience. He has demonstrated this many times, and we will probably need it", his colleague said.



Vitautas Landsbergis

● There are striking similarities with the background of the Czechoslovak playwright and now President Vaclav Havel ●

there are striking similarities with the background of the Czechoslovak playwright — and now President — Mr Vaclav Havel. Mr Havel also comes from a great Czech bourgeois family, which helped re-establish the Czech cultural identity after centuries of German domination.

Both men's cultural professions have thus been central to their politics. Dr Landsbergis's work as a musician was never the "ivory

write about him was already a political statement. This union of politics and culture has brought Mr Landsbergis to his present position. It may, however, have slightly questionable aspects for the future shape of civil society, tending to work against the idea of a multi-cultural Lithuania, which is the official stance of Sajudis leaders.

Mr Landsbergis has, of course, also achieved his present position through his

Getting ready for a big fall



High flyer: Herr Gregor Gysi, leader of East Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism, jokes as he prepares for his first parachute jump at Friederdorf during the election campaign.

Romanians denounce leaders

From A Correspondent
Bucharest

Anti-government protesters demanding the removal of all communist and secret police influence in Romania demonstrated in Bucharest and two provincial cities yesterday.

Demonstrators massed in the Opera Square in Timisoara — where the Romanian revolution began on December 16 — and in the centre of the Moldavian capital of Iasi as the opposition Peasant Party claimed that two provincial party chiefs had been brutally murdered by "Securitate terrorists" in a political witch-hunt masterminded, they said, by the National Salvation Front.

Mr Valentin Gabrielescu said that a party leader aged 60 had been hacked to within an inch of his life and had his tongue cut out by two axe-wielding assailants in the village of Rosiori near the southern town of Calarasi. He died at home an hour later.

Mr Gabrielescu said the politician's wife and two daughters have been threatened with rape if they revealed even his name to the authorities. Romanian police said they had no record of the incident.

The horrific case is a carbon copy of last month's murder near the northern town of Bacau, when another Peasant Party leader, Mr Vasile Vulpescu, was hacked to death by axemen who removed his tongue.

Meanwhile, about 15,000 people gathered in Timisoara to denounce the Romanian leader, Mr Ion Iliescu, and other rulers.

Colonel Constantin Greuc, one of the leaders of the rally, made a demand for more information about the role of the Army in repressing demonstrations in December, which triggered the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu's communist regime.

Troop pullout starts in Hungary

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Just 48 hours after Hungary and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary, the first batch of Soviet soldiers will head for home today by train at the start of a year-long phased pullout.

The agreement, signed in Moscow by Mr Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, and his Soviet counterpart Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, called for all 50,000 soldiers and an equal number of civilian dependants to leave Hungary by February next year, and a final withdrawal of a large reserve of equipment, weapons and ammunition to be completed no later than June 30, 1991.

A vast amount of weapons and supplies — 860 tanks and 1,500 armoured personnel carriers, as well as artillery and

100,000 tons of spare fuel — reflect the Warsaw Pact's former strategy of using Hungary as a staging area for offensive operations, in particular, to supply Soviet forces in Czechoslovakia, Hungarian Defence Ministry officials say.

Both sides claim that the lengthy withdrawal time is necessary to transport the materials by train, which must be reloaded on to Soviet rolling stock at the Soviet-Hungarian-Czechoslovak border station at Csat, also the crossing point for the recently begun Soviet withdrawal from Czechoslovakia.

While almost all Hungarians are pleased to see the backs of their "socialist brothers", several opposition parties criticized the withdrawal agreement, which comes two weeks before Hungary's first multi-party elections in more

than 40 years, describing it as an "election trick" by the ruling Socialist Party, of which Mr Horn is a member.

To show their displeasure, three opposition party delegates invited to Moscow by the Hungarian Government to observe the final round of talks decided to boycott the signing ceremony.

One of the observers, Mr Lejos Kosa of the League of Young Democrats, told the Hungarian newspaper *Nepszabadsag*: "We reserve the right to renegotiate this treaty, because we think the troops could be out sooner, possibly by the end of this year."

Although the opposition was invited to the talks, Hungarian Foreign Ministry officials said that any important change in the negotiating position at the last minute could have jeopardized the

agreement. The Soviet withdrawal has become a hot campaign issue with many opposition parties calling for an immediate pullout and for Hungary to leave the Warsaw Pact.

However, Mr Horn described as "strange" allegations that his party, which is trailing badly in the polls, had made a deal with the Soviet Communist Party to sign the agreement now to boost socialist election chances.

He added that the entire Hungarian-Soviet friendship accord must be renegotiated because it was based on the concept of "proletarian internationalism".

Mr Horn said this was an outmoded idea and the new friendship agreement must clarify the circumstances which led to the 1956 Soviet military intervention.

Socialists would cut back German refugee benefits

From Ian Murray, Bonn

The opposition Social Democrats will do away with virtually all the benefits given to East German refugees if they win the general election in December.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the party's likely candidate for the post of Chancellor, won backing for this idea at the weekend during a working session to prepare for the election campaign.

He also means to abandon a party plan for state-financing care of the elderly in order to preserve a prosperous social security system. Tied in with this is his insistence that pensions for East Germans, while fair, should not automatically be as large as those for West Germans who have contributed to the scheme throughout their working life.

Preventing the daily arrival of thousands of East Germans is top of his list. Instead of paying money to help them integrate in the West, he wants to spend the money improving living standards in the East so that people stay there.

As far as he is concerned, the DM 500 million (£181 million) spent providing emergency housing for those who have come would have been better spent improving East Germany's road system. That would have provided an important spur to confidence in the East that conditions would improve, he believes.

The one way in which Herr Lafontaine is prepared to help the refugees is in providing them with money to go home and rebuild the economy there, which he regards as the best value for Germany's tax money.

The Social Democrats' programme, *Progress 90*, is calculated to win more popular support in West Germany as resentment grows against the refugees for taking jobs, housing and social security benefits — all of which threatens to increase taxation.

For the moment, however,

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and his coalition Government is staying in front in the opinion polls despite losing ground.

The latest poll by the Wickert Institute shows that Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats and the Bavarian Christian Social Union have 41.7 per cent support and their partners, the liberal Free Democrats, have 9.3 per cent — 51 per cent overall. The Social Democrats have 39 per cent, the Greens 6.3 per cent.

Herr Lafontaine hopes, however, that if his party

Mongolia test

Peking — The Central Committee of the Mongolian Revolutionary Party will meet today to discuss opposition demands, including one for the entire Politburo to resign (Catherine Sampson writes). The ruling party agreed after opposition leaders of the Mongolian Democratic Party went on hunger strike from Wednesday to Friday last week. Mr Jambyn Batmunkh, the President and party General Secretary, said on Friday that the Politburo would be disbanded. It is possible, however, that many might be re-elected. Diplomats say the plenum will test commitment to real reform.

overtakes the Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies, then the Free Democrats will be ready to form a new coalition with it.

Herr Kohl is also doing well in East Germany, according to a Mori poll published in *The Sunday Times*. This gives the alliance of parties which he supports 36 per cent of the vote, with the Social Democrats there scoring 35 per cent and the communists just 7 per cent.

These figures, in line with recent trends in West German

polls, are likely to be slightly distorted since those polled were telephone subscribers, who are generally more established people and more inclined to vote right of centre.

The route to reunification divides the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, and probably explains the coalition's lead in West Germany. The government parties all now favour the quickest possible route, involving the accession of the East German *Land* through the Basic Law. Although this would require a resolution in the Bundestag and approval by the Four Powers, it could happen legally much more rapidly than the preferred Social Democratic method of an agreed joint constitution.

Herr Theo Waigel, the Christian Social Union's leader, said at the weekend that he would even favour allowing elected East German members to take a seat in the Bundestag. This shows apparent confidence that the Social Democrats will be beaten in the East. If the socialists were to emerge as clear winners there, then they could help the Social Democrats in the West defeat the Government inside the Bundestag before the election. ● **Border verdict:** After all the fuss in the past week over recognition of the Oder-Neisse line as the inviolable border of Poland, it seems the issue does not bother many of the Germans expelled from the area at the end of the war (Ian Murray writes).

Only one in 12 of the Germans whose families came from Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia would like to go back there, according to a poll conducted by Forsa, the Dortmund research institute.

As far as recognizing the present border is concerned, 21 per cent were in favour of recognizing it now without preconditions, and 25 per cent favoured recognition by a united Germany.

Occhetto conjures unity out of chaos

From Richard Bassett, Rome

The most turbulent congress in the Italian Communist Party's history ended on a note of unity yesterday, when it agreed to create a new left-wing force in Italian politics along social democratic lines.

The congress was a clear victory for the Communist Party leader, Signor Achille Occhetto, who has attempted to broaden the base of Communist support since the Berlin Wall came down last November, precipitating an identity crisis for most West European communist parties.

Skilfully, Signor Occhetto has managed to reverse the usual Italian solution to political problems — changing names while retaining the same ideas. He is pledged not to tamper with what he calls the "imagery" of the party while still expanding the base of its support.

For the time being the party will retain its Communist name. The red flag with its accompanying chorus remains. Even the hammer

and sickle emblem, it appears, may survive until the end of the year.

But Signor Occhetto has pledged to change the substance of the party, if not its form.

After months of confusion and tension, he is managing to reassure his most vociferous opponents within the party that there will still be a place for their traditions.

At the same time, he has left no one in any doubt that the party can only escape its fate of being Italy's largest permanent opposition force if it radically trims its ideas to the changing face of communism in Eastern Europe today.

"We must learn a lot from the Germans — they are social democrats," Signor Occhetto told journalists yesterday.

"They have shown that it is possible to advance without sacrificing tradition," he said. Above all, the Communist Party leader appeared to seek a dialogue with any surviving fractious elements within the

party, particularly among the younger population. Yesterday's business was mainly taken up with the election of a new secretariat



Signor Occhetto: A tearful embrace for his opponent.

and was considerably calmer than Saturday's heated debate. Then, Signor Occhetto was frequently seen crying with emotion as he was embraced by his erstwhile opponent, Signor Pietro Ingrao. The

latter had been bitterly opposed to Signor Occhetto's plans, but apparently has sunk his differences within the party.

Before the congress began in Bologna, Signor Occhetto had faced a 30 per cent defection from hardliners resolutely opposed to any compromise within the party.

The Italian Socialist Party, in particular, appeared poised to profit from this division, but yesterday its advances were welcomed by the Communists with all the hearty enthusiasm of a contented husband whose marriage had only three days earlier been on the rocks.

On Saturday, more than 200 students had demonstrated against the Communist leadership, demanding that Italy be taken out of Nato.

To Signor Occhetto's relief, however, late on Saturday night he managed to defeat a motion calling for Italy's withdrawal from Nato by 498 votes to 353.

Making money and serving God



Many businessmen and industrialists have declared their frustration with the attitude of Church leaders to wealth creation. Peter Morgan, director of the Institute of Directors, echoed this sentiment when he said recently that the Church regarded business and industry as "mucky and squalid".

The Times and the Comino Foundation, which promotes British industry, are sponsoring a seminar in London on Thursday at which leading industrialists and churchmen will grapple with these issues. Is hostility to wealth creation part of the Christian Gospel, or a historical development reflecting cultural values? Is there a positive Christian ethic of wealth creation, and what does it have to say to the modern man of business? Or does he simply have to choose between God and Mammon?

The three keynote papers for the seminar, by authorities on these topics, are being published in advance, starting today with DAVID EDWARDS, who traces the history of Christian mistrust of industry

No religious song is more popular among English people who think that Christians are allowed to be comfortably off than William Blake's *Jerusalem*. But even there, the apparent incompatibility between Christianity and wealth creation intrudes itself, for the "dark Satanic mills" are contrasted by the poet with "England's green & pleasant Land".

Fortunately it is not my task to attempt an exposition of Blake's own thought. But I do respond to an invitation to probe a little into the connection, or lack of connection, between religion and wealth in English Christian thought. Churchgoers are well aware of the current season of Lent. The whole austere spirit of these 40 days seems to be in accord with the practice of those of my fellow-clergy who throughout the year tend to use, soon after the word "wealth" (or its equivalents), the words "materialism", "selfishness" and "greed".

I am one of those Christians who are uneasy about the assumption that wealth creation is grubby if not downright immoral. That attitude may imply some scorn for the activities on which most people spend most of their time. Whenever value is added to goods and services, wealth is created — and the taxman is there to remind us. And wealth is created by activities too primitive to be within the net of VAT — making children and growing crops. I cannot believe, in Lent or at any other time, that we are all meant to avoid all activities which may make us richer.

Of course, my fellow clergy who denounce the affluent society as "Thatcherism and all that" do not want to write off the whole world of work and wealth. But they often do give the impression that they think that this world does not need to be affirmed; that their job is to stress instead "spirituality" and "social justice", either together or as alternative priorities. There is rightful concern and indignation about unemployment as being contrary to "social justice" — but less concern about the importance of employment as a source of wealth creation.

I want to ask whether "spirituality" and "social justice" should not be praised together with the activities which can be grouped together as "wealth creation".

It is, I have come to see, a misunderstanding of the Bible when preachers feel obliged to throw stones at those who work in the vineyard. What is authoritative for Christians is the Bible's message, the Gospel. That message certainly warns the rich against being absorbed either by the pleasures or by the cares of wealth. It presents "spirituality" as essential if anyone is to behave sensibly before God. And the biblical message clearly tells the rulers to defend the poor. It presents "social justice" as essential if God, the Creator of all, is to be worshipped truly.

For Christians, this Gospel is driven deep into the conscience and the imagination by the life and teaching of Jesus, the Son of Man who for our sakes became poor. He proclaimed the imminent arrival of the Kingdom of God; he challenged all to begin Sermon-on-the-Mount lives under that radically new government; he commanded a few to follow him by leaving home and work to become his messengers. Most of the rich and the mighty behaved, in response, like camels contemplating needles — and so they were sent away empty.

In the Orthodox and Catholic traditions the original sharpness of the Lord's challenge has been renewed, as exceptional men and women have felt called to poverty, chastity and obedience in the "religious" life. Those who have given their lives in that obedience have been honoured most as the athletes of God. Even among Protestants, it has been agreed that St Francis or Mother Teresa deserves more Christian admiration than a millionaire. And long may the Christian crowd raise those cheers!

But the best summary of the Bible's message as a whole is provided by the Letter of James. "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?" Here poverty is praised if it encourages reliance on



'Religion became an escape from industrial ugliness'

God and therefore breeds spiritual wealth. It is, however, taken for granted throughout the Bible that most people will work for their livings and they, too, are praised if they work so well that they have a surplus to share with the poor, as when the Good Samaritan took out his wallet.

For Adam, work in the garden was natural and divinely commanded; as early as Genesis the Bible takes in a city, cattle, lyre and pipe, bronze and iron; and the divine blessing on good work is expressed by the gift of prosperity, abundance even, to the unfortunate Job. The parables of Jesus, for most of his adult life a carpenter, draw their material from the world of work and deserve to be studied in order to see how little they were censorious towards that world.

Generation after generation,

Christians in Europe have built up the material basis of our civilization: Byzantium, Venice, Florence, Bruges, Amsterdam... Why, then, among Christians in modern England has the balance to be found in the Bible and the Church's tradition been tilted so much away from any blessing on wealth creation?

The movement of opinion has not been exclusively English; but in England the imbalance has been especially noticeable for special reasons.

The balance was there in the best teachers, such as John Wesley and Cardinal Newman. While great Anglican bishops such as Lancelotti, Andrewes, Laud and Taylor were far from neglecting the whole Anglican ethos sanctified "my station and its duties" in the humdrum lay world, as may be seen from a glance at the

Catechism in the Prayer Book. And the balance has been preserved in the lives of millions of Christians, of all the Churches, who have built our Jerusalem with stones and physical or mental sweat.

But as England became the world's first industrial nation, two features of the revolution appalled many Christians. One was the brutal ugliness of the factories and factory towns, in contrast with the countryside. Hence the romantic protest of Constable, Wordsworth, the pre-Raphaelites, Ruskin, Chesterton; hence, at a more normal intellectual level, the aristocratic fustian of Brideshead or the rural nostalgia of suburban Religion became an escape.

When the Churches boomed in Victorian England, their hymns sang of all things bright and beautiful, not of all things contem-

'Often English Christians forgot that their whole society, with all its hopes of progress, rested on the trade they despised'

porary, and their Gothic appearance indicated that they belonged to the old Christendom and perhaps to a medieval forest.

Another factor, more potent still, was the untaxed wealth of the capitalist or landowner in contrast with the unsupported urban squallor of life for the masses whose ancestors had been peasants. Hence the conviction of many "Christian Socialists" from Maurice, Manning, Gore, Temple and Tawney through the Nonconformist Conscience downwards, that the Churches must take advantage of the popularity they had acquired (in their medieval forest perhaps) by playing, or at least encouraging, the role of Robin Hood.

One of the most influential counter-attacks after the arrival of the Satanic mill owners was made in the schools and colleges which educated the traditional governing class and newcomers willing to be absorbed into its value.

Privileged young Englishmen were not encouraged to add to their privileges by adding to the nation's industrial or commercial wealth. They were urged to maintain the essentially rural lifestyle of the "gentleman", and to earn their privileges by helping and guiding the poor. Beyond that, their eyes were directed to that quarter of the globe which came to be coloured red. In Westminster, or at 10,000 points in Westminster's world-covering tentacles, the products of England's top schools and colleges (then firmly Christian) were to pursue a mission which was civilizing, the creation not of wealth but of justice. What was needed was the administration of others, not any technical skill; so Latin was more useful than science.

"Trade" was in the background, but "trade" was too vulgar to be put in the centre. Thomas Arnold was a prophet of the main Christian response to industrialization when, almost exactly on the days when term in Rugby School began and ended, he sped to, and reluctantly from, his real home in the Lake District, where he drank deep from the wisdom of Ancient Israel, Greece and Rome. Arnold's son, Matthew, urged England to catch up with the Continent by providing popular, including technical, education, and to some extent that was done after 1870, but it was only in the 1970s that the governing class really began to acknowledge that it and the people must both be trained for "trade".

These values, in their way very noble, strengthened the conclusion that it was far more interesting and ethical to hand out money than to make it. When it became apparent that by taxation and bureaucracy the modern state

could distribute wealth massively, every distribution away from the people who had profited in the modern market was hailed as social justice.

Because the cake had grown so much larger than anything which had been known in all the previous centuries, it was assumed that the cake would keep on growing. The fascinating question was how to slice it up, and from the 1930s to the present day a pile of reports from Church committees, conferences and synods has answered that question. There has been comparatively little discussion of how to bake the cake.

English Christianity has not yet officially moved much beyond the age of Anselm. At the end of the Second World War the country made the morally correct and politically irreversible decision to establish social security through the welfare state. Very few voices were raised to say that, with a new industrial revolution now accelerating and the empire going, the modernization of this island's industry in a European setting ought to be given higher or equal priority. In the Churches such voices would have been hymned down.

Inevitably English Christians have been touched in heart and mind by wider tendencies, but it is not fair to suggest that they have merely followed fashion. They have had their special reasons to love and defend nature, to be indignant at the extremes of wealth and poverty, to turn to the empire as a less sordid sphere, to believe that man does not live by bread alone, not even by sliced bread. But they got their attitude to work, which creates material wealth, out of balance. Often they forgot that their whole society, with all its hopes of material progress and greater equality — and with the new size of the population — now rested on the despised "trade". They forgot that God himself needs Mammon if his children are to be fed.

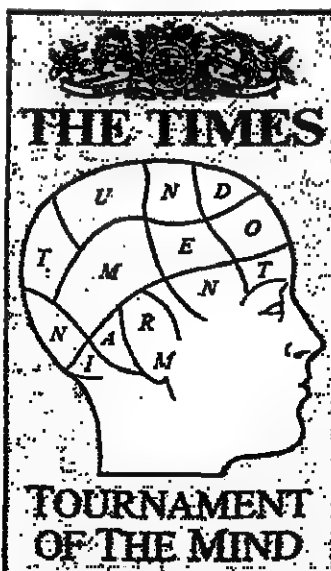
Now that industry need not be ugly, and now that competition in the European market has replaced the administration of the empire, can English Christianity produce a more realistic chapter in the history of its social thought? The balance must be restored to the social teaching of the English Churches.

The Very Revd David Edwards is Provost of Southwark and a member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

TOMORROW

Lord Caldecote on the predicament of the industrialist

Tournament of the Mind



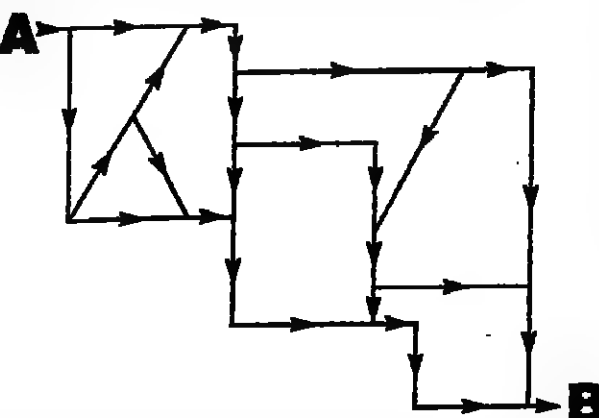
● The Times Tournament of the Mind enters its second week with Round Six today offering questions to test your word power, logic, numeracy, and general knowledge against the skills of thousands of other readers from across the globe.

● Played over 20 rounds, the Tournament offers the chance to win £5,000 or, for the top school, a Hewlett Packard computer. Every entrant will receive a special certificate.

● Only the Collins English Dictionary (second edition) and the Encyclopaedia Britannica (15th edition) are used. Answers gained from other sources will not be accepted. No written correspondence will be entered into and no telephone queries will be accepted.

1. DIAGRAMS

In this diagram, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. How many different permitted routes are there of getting from A to B?



2. VERBAL

Replace the blanks in this sentence, so that it makes sense, with two different seven-letter words which use the same letters in their construction?

THE BEST PLACE TO BLANK THE SOUP IS IN THE BLANK

LOGIC	DAFTMOUTH 300
183	SCARBOROUGH 7
245	

Using the logic from the information on this signpost, what distance replaces the question mark? (Clue: each letter is allocated a logical value and these are then added together).

3. MATS

A generous philanthropist visits a village which has a total population of 1,444. He gives every fourth male £16 and every eighth female £32. How much money did he give in total?

4. MISCELLANY

Which of the five great lakes of North America lies wholly within the United States?

ROUND 6 - ANSWERS

Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in The Times

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Answer 2 _____

Answer 3 _____

Answer 4 _____

MISCELLANY

Answer 1 _____

NAME _____

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TIMES DIARY

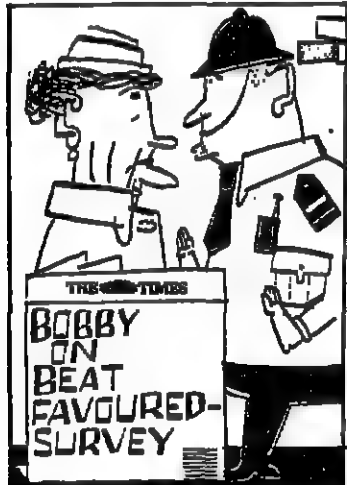
SHERIDAN MORLEY

More trouble is likely at the Barbican today when the Royal Shakespeare Company's new ruling triumvirate, Genista McIntosh, Adrian Noble and Michael Attenborough, come face-to-face for the first time with their landlady, Detta O'Carroll, who is not pleased with their decision to withdraw from both stages for four months next winter. She is reported to be even less pleased with a clause in the lease which says the RSC can veto any other production intended as a filler for either the main stage or the Pit during its absence, thereby forestalling the possibility of a rival company having a hit there. It would perhaps be even more than usually tactless of me to suggest that, given the successes in the National's current repertoire, the Barbican would provide an ideal NT overflow house until things improve for the RSC.

If someone told you that Central Television was now operating from a flat above McDonald's, you could be forgiven for assuming that the McDonald's in question was somewhere in the Midlands, and that the company had fallen on hard times. The flat is in fact above the recently opened McDonald's in Moscow's Pushkin Square where Central is putting together a deal with Goskino, the Soviet cinema organization, a glossy Moscow magazine called *Ogonyok*, and the Contemporary Opera company. Together, they will provide facilities for other Western TV crews wishing to film in the Soviet Union and supply the Russians with feature films from this side of what used to be the Iron Curtain. I wish Central better luck than that experienced by the late Hollywood director George Cukor, who 15 years ago, found himself in Leningrad with Elizabeth Taylor and Ava Gardner on a doomed attempt to make the first US/Soviet co-production — a musical of *The Bluebird*. It was an honour, said Cukor on arrival, to be filming in the very studio where Eisenstein had made his classic *Battleship Potemkin* in 1925. "Yes," beamed their proud host, "and with the very same equipment."

As I reported here some weeks back, the Trevor Nunn production of *Othello* starring Willard White and Ian McKellen, which ran for ludicrously limited seasons at Stratford and the Young Vic, has now been filmed by Prime Time, the company which brought Nunn's *Nicholas Nickleby* to the screen. It goes out on BBC-TV in May. If you can't wait that long, £17 in aid of the Home Farm Trust charity will buy you a ticket to a sneak preview next Monday night at Bafta in Piccadilly.

BARRY FANTONI



'Nice chatting but I must fly — there's someone breaking into my house'

As part from the Oscar Wilde case, few trials of the last century have given quite so much to stage and screen as the Leopold/Loeb affair of 1920s Chicago, in which two wealthy students kidnapped and murdered a young boy for kicks. Because of the homosexual overtones, not to mention other libel difficulties, Patrick Hamilton first fictionalized the case as a play called *Rope*, which had runs in the West End and on Broadway before being filmed by Alfred Hitchcock. Eleven years later Darryl Zanuck remade it as *Compulsion*, with Orson Welles as lawyer Clarence Darrow giving a defence speech which, at 15 minutes, was thought to be the longest ever filmed. Next week the story returns to the West End stage — the Playhouse — as *Never the Sinner*, with Joss Ackland as Darrow. If all goes well, we shall doubtless then get the film of the play of the film of the film of the play of the case.

One of the most reassuring clauses in the rule-book of Aubercon Waugh's Academy Club is that relating to prison: whereas most committees regard incarceration, like bankruptcy, as grounds for immediate expulsion, presumably for fear that the unfortunate member may find prison food more acceptable, Waugh's sanctuary imposes no such hardship. Members who have the misfortune to be sent down will not be expected to resign, nor to pay subscriptions while behind bars; indeed, the unused part of the annual sub can be held over for use after release. I trust the Garrick and Buck's swiftly follow suit.

I experienced no joy when they announced that Westminster's poll tax was to be £195; I felt ashamed. It meant that a brace of elderly Freuds reclining around the upper floors of one of Lord Howard de Walden's houses in Wimpole Street would be better off by £800 per annum. It must be within the bounds of an administration to ensure that folk like us, living in comfort in the area of our choice, at best make a fair contribution to local expenditure, certainly do not benefit at the expense of the less wealthy. I now feel slightly better, for it seems that £195 is only for owners; feed-corn to enable Westminster City Council to embark upon a campaign of aggressive Thatcherism. This horizontal column has already reported the zeal of cleansing officers who are encouraged to dedicate their week-

As the West cheers on Eastern Europe's march of democracy, the calls for greater democracy in the European Community grow ever louder. In a bold challenge this week, the European Parliament in Strasbourg will demand a share of power that would transform the Brussels decision-making structure and lay the basis for a federal Europe more accountable to its voters. A report drawn up by David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP, demands powers of co-decision with the Council of Ministers. It aims to extend the Parliament's powers, which at present are limited to legislation on the single market. The report wants the Parliament to have the power to block, instead of merely delay, Commission proposals, forcing ministers to sit down and negotiate with MEPs. It wants to be able to initiate legislation, which is now the prerogative of the Commission. And it wants much wider powers to sack individual commissioners, to ratify treaties, to conduct parliamentary inquiries, and to draw up a draft constitution for full European union. The Strasbourg demands, which are likely to command overwhelming support among

Michael Binyon on MEP moves for greater Euro democracy

Strasbourg's power play

MEPs, follow the urgings for institutional reform of the Community from European leaders, national parliaments and individual politicians such as Michael Heseltine and Jacques Delors, president of the Commission. With the prospect of East Germany joining the EC, closer ties with the six European Free Trade Association members, and the prospect of all Eastern Europe knocking at the door, the Community is rapidly outgrowing the cosy structure designed for a club of six. Despite Britain's opposition and the present distraction of Eastern Europe, the momentum towards deeper political integration appears unstoppable. The Twelve must soon make their preliminary preparations for an inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union to be held at the end of this year. Influential voices are suggesting that this conference should be used to discuss a new EC constitution. There are

warnings that unless the structure is streamlined, decision-making will seize up, national parliaments' resentment will sharpen as power slips from their hands, public alarm at the "democratic deficit" will grow, and the Community will not be ready to admit new members. Both Ireland and Italy, responsible for getting the conference off the ground this year, favour the idea. Even Britain, the most reluctant to see any changes that would increase Community powers, believes that anything could, and perhaps should, be discussed. M Delors has already put forward his own proposals, which will be formally published next month. He wants to strengthen the Commission by reducing its members from 17 to 12 (one for each country), delegating some of its more technical work to specialized agencies, and, like a cabinet, concentrating on more overtly political issues. Commissioners

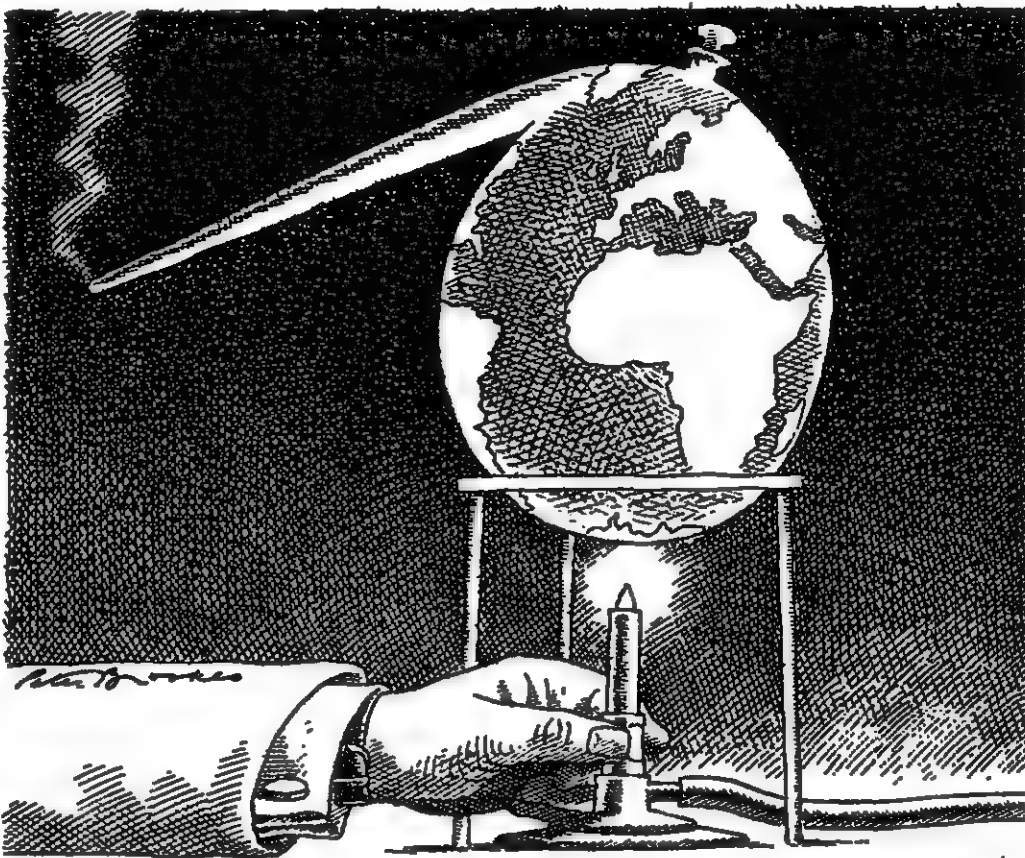
could be elected by the European Parliament, instead of being appointed by member states, making them more accountable. They should also be more involved in foreign policy, which now comes under an independent secretariat. Earlier this year, he spoke vaguely of a permanent body of deputy prime ministers drawn from each member state to strengthen the Council of Ministers. Now he wants to speed up its decision-making by broadening the range of directives that can be passed by majority vote. These should include not only single-market measures, as laid down by the Single European Act, but also those dealing with social affairs, the environment and even, perhaps, tax. The Delors plan has little to say about the European Parliament. But other politicians have had plenty to say. Mr Heseltine has several times called for a second chamber — a European Senate — composed of

MPs from national parliaments to link Euro legislation more closely to national debate. He also wants each country to appoint a senior minister for European affairs who would report on EC matters to national MPs and who could more forcefully represent national interests in Brussels than do the permanent ambassadors. Other politicians, such as Helmut Kohl, have also insisted on strengthening the Parliament, especially as a way of retaining some independent control over the proposed System of European Central Banks, which the Delors report envisages running EMU. The Parliament has seen that it now has an opportunity to bid for long-frustrated power. Mr Martin's report calls for a substantial role for Strasbourg in the inter-governmental conference. It therefore wants a "pre-conference conference" in May or June with the Commission and the Council of Ministers so that it can prepare a

mandate for the full conference and insist on having a say in institutional reform. After that it wants consultations to tell each national parliament what is proposed and to ensure they do not feel slighted. Some parliaments, such as the Italian, will be enthusiastic. Westminster may be more sceptical. The Martin report wants the European Parliament to be the main forum to discuss a new constitution for the EC. It offers a blueprint for a federal Europe based on the principles of subsidiarity — leaving to member states those tasks best performed at national level — efficiency and democracy. It admits that one country — obviously Britain — will have none of this. But it insists that "no single state can block the will of the majority to achieve European Union". Fine Euro-sentiments that will ensure the enthusiastic adoption of the report this week. The Commission, however, may be more circumspect. And as for the member states, several are already dismissing it as far too radical. But as one official has remarked, the history of the European Community is a series of advances that had been written off beforehand as impossible to achieve.

Ensuring posterity with prosperity

Chris Patten, Environment Secretary, thinks economic growth can continue if we all learn to act responsibly



One central ethical principle underlies our concern for the environment. It is stewardship. We do not have freeholders' rights to the land we live in, allowing us to do whatever we want with it. We are trustees, obliged to pass on what we inherited from the last generation to the next. In Britain particularly, the feeling that we have some special responsibility for civilizing the effects of the industrial revolution is almost as old as the industrial revolution itself. We all remember William Blake's reference to "dark, satanic mills" — and the fact that he was referring to churches cannot detract from the industrial power of the metaphor. Later, in the 19th century, came Wordsworth with his powerful affirmations, against the background of the industrial age, of regard for nature as the real touchstone of the human spirit.

Dickens gives us the pulse of that industrial age: The earth was made for Dombey and Son to trade in, and the sun and moon were made to give him light. Rivers and seas were formed to float their ships; rainbows gave them promise of fair weather; winds blew for or against their enterprises; stars and planets circled in their orbits to preserve inviolate a system of which they were the centre. ... AD had no concern with anno Domini, but stood for anno Dombey — and so on. What Dickens describes here shows why the world was in need of protection from man's industrial excesses. The way he describes it shows insight and humanity of the kind that produced the Alkali Act of 1863, the first great legislative monument of environmental stewardship. But today many people who feel a genuine ethical concern for stewardship allow the heart to take them too far in certain directions. The kind of attitudes I mean tend to imply some or all of three loosely-connected propositions. They imply that the world can sustain its growing population at a tolerable standard of living only if the developed world drops the idea of economic growth and accepts a decline in living standards towards those of the less-developed world. They imply that the world's natural state is the only truly "right" state for it, and that human activities should not be allowed to have any effects on nature which can possibly be

avoided. And they imply that any environmental risk is unacceptable and must be avoided. The idea of zero or negative growth is a counsel of despair which we must reject. Poverty is perhaps the greatest pollutant of all, as we can see, not only in the developing world but also in the magnitude of the ecological disasters which, as is becoming clear in the new era of *glasnost*, have accompanied economic stagnation in parts of Eastern Europe. Neither economic activity nor industry is wicked in itself. They create the wealth and the goods necessary for feeding, clothing, transporting, warming, lighting, curing and educating us. Part of the ethical challenge of stewardship is for governments to create conditions which will allow our children, and their children, to live materially as well as or better than ourselves. The other part of this ethical challenge is how to do this without fouling the global nest and growing at the expense of our poorer neighbours. Part of the key is sound science. But sound science is just as important. We have to develop our economies in ways that are sustainable, ways that conserve natural resources. Instead we are depleting our renewable resources, notably the tropical forests, more quickly than they can recover.

For the developed countries, this means methods of agriculture which do not impoverish the land, industrial processes which minimize waste and pollution and maximize recycling, and pioneering more efficient ways of using energy. For the developing world it means the same plus avoiding the mistakes made by the first world during industrialization. And the first world must ensure that developing countries benefit from our environmental ex-

perience on fair and affordable terms. I turn to the second of the three propositions — the belief that the natural order is sacrosanct — with a quotation from Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission: "The natural world can no longer bear unbridled pillaging. ... This is the first lesson we must learn: to respect nature for itself and not simply as a means for satisfying our needs. Nature has a logic of its own which may differ from ours." No one would deny that there is sound sense in this. But the thrust of M Delors' comments, and of those who take the same thought to much more radical extremes — "leave things alone unless absolutely necessary" — is, I believe, wrong.

The statesman and scholar Francis Bacon is sometimes quoted by the let-'em-alone school: "It is not possible to direct nature, except by obeying it". Quite true. But he is not saying leave things alone. He is giving an early definition of sustainable development. Bacon's purpose was to establish a new system of natural philosophy on what are now regarded as modern principles. The Aristotelian scheme against which he was reacting had held sway for 2,000 years, based broadly on the proposition that the secrets of nature could be established purely by intellect. Bacon's revolutionary insight was that this approach should be modified by the understanding that empirical facts are of overriding importance in scientific progress. So it is likely that what he meant was that, to manage the world, we must understand and accept how it works. It is therefore possible to claim Ba-

con as the first champion of sound science as a basis for policies for managing the environment. The trick for mankind is to get the management of nature right, not to avoid it. Finally, let me tackle the proposition that we should not take any environmental risks. Certainly it is true that prevention is much better than cure. Policies must continue to aim at preventing damage, rather than clearing up the consequences. Again, sound science is important, and the Government is giving high priority to continued investment in research, while also recognizing that lack of scientific certainty is no justification for doing nothing. This precautionary approach is surely the right one, but it cannot eliminate all risks. In some cases, environmental risks have been unforeseen and unforeseeable. CFCs are a good example: they were invented — by the man who first thought of putting lead in petrol, incidentally — as a cleaner and safer means of refrigeration and blowing foams. Only after they had been in use for many years did evidence emerge that they were harming the ozone layer. In future, no doubt, new problems will come to light in unexpected quarters. When this happens, the political reaction should be swift. We should trust science and human ingenuity to tell us what action to take, but the Government's stewardship of the economy means that the costs of the precautions must be proportionate to the risk, and the costs of compliance with environmental controls of all kinds should be proportionate to the environmental benefits.

This article is extracted from the 1990 Wilson Lecture, to be given at Goldsmiths & Latimer School, Hammersmith, tonight.

Jack Straw

A nice little learner

Barbara Castle, newly installed as Social Services Secretary in the 1974 Wilson government, said to a visiting foreign dignitary: "This is Professor Brian Abel-Smith, my senior policy adviser, and this is Jack Straw, my political adviser." Asked our different functions, she replied: "I employ Brian for his brains, Jack for guile and low cunning."

A part of my remit was to "humanize" (to use Barbara's word) the replies that she and other ministers had to send to fellow MPs complaining on behalf of constituents about the new government's failure to effect instant solutions to one or another of its seemingly insoluble problems. In those days before the word processor, the stock answers prepared by officials were kept in little pigeon holes and were retyped, with any necessary variation, to produce apparently bespoke replies. One such stock answer, which taxed both brain and guile, concerned a common retiring age for men and women. "Bring it down to 60 for men," said the constituent. "They die earlier than women, so why should they have to retire later?"

The real answer was Good idea — but sorry, it would cost too much. The stock answer, however, treated the correspondent to three dense pages of actuarial considerations, in the hope, no doubt, of persuading him not to ask such impertinent questions in the future. I tried hard, but largely failed to humanize this reply. Now I find that my efforts were wasted. Sixteen years later, as a consequence not of explicit government policy but of broader economic and social trends, the retiring age for most men has dropped. In 1971, nearly 17 in 20 men aged 60-64 were either in work or actively seeking work. In 1988 the figure was 11 in 20 and is thought to be going down still further. The proportion of working men over 65 (one in five in 1971) is expected to drop to less than one in 20 by 2000.

As the retiring age for men has come down, that for women has risen slightly. In 1971, 51 per cent of women aged 55-59 were economically active; in 1988, 53 per cent. A common, flexible retiring age is not far off. "After we retired we discovered what the aristocrats have been doing for 300 years," one passionate advocate of early retirement told a conference I attended recently (although, unfortunately, he gave no details of the discovery). For many people, early retirement has been a conscious choice. With the children off their hands, their mortgages paid off, and in good health, they can enjoy their late fifties, sixties and seventies — provided they have an adequate pension and/or capital. But others drop out of the labour market prematurely not because they want to, but because they have to. Typically, people with fewer formal skills and little capital, perhaps only a derisory works' pension. The

self-confidence and esteem of many has been crushed by being told that at 55, or 50, or even younger, they are unemployable, not wanted. These are the people whose taxes have paid for the schooling and higher education of their (and other) children but who missed those opportunities themselves. Two-thirds of today's 60-year-olds left school at 14 or younger. Only one in 10 of those now aged 50 carried on at school after the age of 16, compared to one in three today. The statistician's term "economically active" powerfully implies that when people retire they become "inactive" — dependent, not to say parasitic on those in work; but many people now live as long in retirement as they spent in adult work. Billions of pounds are spent, rightly, on preparing people for their "working" lives, but relatively little is done to prepare people for life after they stop formal work.

Moreover, the fewer educational opportunities available to people in adolescence, the fewer they have in late middle age and retirement. Older people who gain a university place can obtain a mandatory grant; those who have no exam qualifications — perhaps not even the ability to read and write properly — are offered little, usually nothing.

If older people are given no opportunity or encouragement to keep developing, they become more dependent on their relatives or the state. Much research evidence shows the connection between an active, healthy mind, and a healthy body. Older people have a major contribution to make to society, in voluntary work and public service, and to the economy, in part-time employment and, for instance, in caring for grandchildren while the parents are at work.

My parliamentary colleague Andrew Smith and the Edinburgh academic Tom Schuller have recently proposed a "Return to Learn" entitlement for those over 50 who missed out on post-school education when young. The proposed entitlement would provide part-time tuition free for one year, with modest bursaries towards the cost of books and travel and, in certain circumstances, a maintenance contribution for those not already receiving an adequate pension or other income. Where such schemes exist already in embryo, there is evidence of a substantial unmet demand, so in time the "Return to Learn" scheme could take off.

The scheme could be a form of personal liberation for thousands whose working life was no great joy. And in the long run it would also save money. The grant of a few thousand pounds a year would pay for itself if it staved off dependency and entry into a geriatric nursing home. It could, perhaps, even be extended to politicians with guile but little brains.

The author, MP for Blackburn, is Labour spokesman on education.

The phantom meter mercenaries



CLEMENT FREUD

ends to examining rubbish left in the streets for signs of provocation, in order to permit a totalitarian authority to fine the well-meaning depositors of black bags. Now a private army has been raised to terrorize the motorist: not for us the familiar yellow hats and armbands of meter men and women found in other boroughs. Lady Porter's Own Westminster Dragons are dressed in plain clothes to merge with the local topography. They keep close to buildings, move in the shadows; their suits are the colour of London W1, and they wear no hats; their shoes are fashioned of cracked cement like the pavements they tread. Pro-

grammed to call citizens "Sir" and "Madam", they pounce with celerity, then fade like Macavity the mystery cat into the oyster light of their environment. There was a time when I could leave my car outside the house, looking up and down the street from my study window for oncoming wardens. No more. Among the plethora of pedestrians who tread the pavements of Wimpole Street are now to be found not only those in search of medical help but also those in search of petty offences who feed on petty offences as birds feed on stale bread crumbs. Picture a silver-grey car neatly parked by a meter that gobbles

local Maconite the right to strike. An excess ticket is affixed to the windshield by the faceless ones; the alternative fines are £10, £20, £30, and one of these sums is ringed. It is the final, the largest sum, that is ringed, though after 30 minutes of excess you become an Offender with no "opportunity to pay a fixed penalty". The full panoply of the law will be invoked. Black caps are likely to be supplied to magistrates, last-breakfast vouchers are even now being designed. It makes one wonder (a) what crime you can commit for a tanner, (b) whether it might not be cheaper to move to Lambeth; and (c) whether pulling the communication cord

on an InterCity express (£50) is not absurdly good value for money. Last week a communication from the City of London and Westminster Conservative Association was pushed through our letterbox. My wife and I were personally and correctly addressed on the envelope and again, in the same bold, flaming hand, on the letter. Beneath the heading Great News for Wimpole Street, it announced the introduction of 55 new residents' parking places in March. "Parking," the letter states, "is a matter in which Cavendish Conservatives take a particular interest." It is signed by Adam de Courcy-Ling, not too

many political parties are open to a chap with a name like that. Well, I also take parking very seriously, which could be the only thing I have in common with the Cavendish Conservatives. Resident parking down our way is something of a racket like our poll tax, it does not tell the full story. There is a huge imbalance between the number of permits sold and the places available, causing residents great problems in finding a bay in which to park. If the council raised the price and increased the number of spaces it would receive for citizens who own motor cars and live in Westminster. We vehicle owners are more suitable targets for fund raising than "people over 18" — the only criterion that makes one liable for the community charge.

0521011525



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THE NERVOUS MINORITY

The findings of three Sunday newspapers which have polled Conservative MPs on their current view of Mrs Thatcher's leadership obviously reveal too large a measure of discontent for the Prime Minister's comfort. The Sunday Times poll shows that just over 25 per cent of Tory backbenchers (on the basis of a sample selected in proportion to the statistical strength of various wings of the party) would like her to go before the next general election. Polls in the Mail on Sunday and The Independent on Sunday suggest roughly the same.

Yet as so often happens, the conclusions suggested by the statistics depend on the way these are presented. In this case, the figures could equally well be regarded as showing that Mrs Thatcher still has the support or acceptance of some 75 per cent of her backbenchers. That is by no means a despairing position for her, given the government's difficulties with the poll tax and the continuing burden of high interest rates.

After more than a decade of power, demands for a change of leadership were bound to surface quickly in the event of political trouble. It is perhaps surprising that Mrs Thatcher's Tory critics are not more numerous — especially given the number now on the back benches who are disgruntled, either because they have been dismissed from the government or feel they have been passed over.

The political reality that the dissidents should grasp is that their present manifestations of alarm are self-defeating for two main reasons. The first is the obvious one that, if Mrs Thatcher were to decide to step down soon, it would be interpreted as at worst a victory for the Militants and their allies in their attempts at social disruption, and at best as an admission that the opposition parties had made their case against the present direction of policy. It would be a confession of failure which would invite defeat at the General Election.

Secondly, there is no consensus in the party in favour of a single candidate to take Mrs Thatcher's place, nor even on a group of potential candidates from whom a successor would be chosen. Only one name is put forward with any real measure of support: that of Mr Michael Heseltine. He is the favoured candidate of virtually all the MPs who want Mrs Thatcher to stand down.

Mr Heseltine is a popular figure in the party and since he resigned from the Cabinet over the Westland affair he has conducted himself

with consummate skill: making speeches wherever he can, expounding his particular brand of Toryism (on social and economic policy as well as on Europe), while at the same time consistently refusing to stake a claim against Mrs Thatcher.

Of course it is his supporters who now attack her, and their criticism is probably not uncomprehending to him. Nevertheless his own consistent position has been that he believes she will lead the party at the next election and that he cannot see any circumstances in which he would challenge her.

He should be taken literally at his own words which are, indeed, a reflection of the political truth. For it is impossible to see how he could stand against Mrs Thatcher without grievously splitting the party — which would probably deliver victory to Labour at the next election. Mr Heseltine's position, which is in favour of much closer political integration in Europe, is held by an enthusiastic minority of Tories; but it is not the majority position. His candidature in the present circumstances would threaten the split his party most needs to avoid.

The same is true, to some unquantifiable degree, on social and economic policy. For most Tories, Mr Heseltine's candidature would be seen as tending to disown much of the Thatcherite revolution from which the country has benefited. So skilled a politician as Mr Heseltine must be only too well aware of these risks. He must know that if his time is to come, it has to be later.

All this is no reason for loyal Thatcherites in the country to try to cold-shoulder a politician who can command audiences as convincingly as Mr Heseltine undoubtedly can. The failure of the beleaguered Tories in Mid-Staffordshire to invite him to speak is foolish. They only deprive themselves of one of the Tory voices who can do most to help them and for no good reason.

If they troubled to think, they must recognise that Mr Heseltine cannot constitute a positive threat to Mrs Thatcher now. The reality is that she is the only person with the capacity to lead the party to victory in the next general election. All that the dissidents in parliament are achieving by their alarm is to undermine confidence without any prospect of gaining their ends.

What the Tory malcontents are doing now is demonstrating a failure of nerve. That is the best way of ensuring the defeat which they say they are trying to avoid by demanding a change at the top.

IRAQ'S ALIEN JUSTICE

To sentence a journalist to death for going after a scoop, and a nurse to 15 years' imprisonment for acting as his chauffeur, is a version of justice so repugnant to the British mentality as to be almost incomprehensible. Yet the ferocity of the Iraqi Revolutionary Court, which has imposed these penalties on Mr Farzad Bazoft and Mrs Daphne Parish, will scarcely have surprised those familiar with the Baghdad régime's odious record. However excessive, the Iraqi response to the unauthorised appearance of an Iranian-born reporter at a secret military base was all too predictable.

What can now be done? The Prime Minister's appeal to the Iraqi President to exercise clemency was a vital first step. Those who bear no responsibility for the lives of these two people should be slower to accuse her of thereby legitimising the trial. Mr Gerald Kaufman, in particular, has laid himself open to the charge of seeking to make political capital out of the Bazoft case.

There are indignant demands for stronger action to be taken forthwith. It is, however, unlikely that diplomatic sanctions would have the effect of encouraging President Saddam Hussein to commute the death sentence. The withdrawal of the British ambassador from Baghdad, without co-ordination with our Community partners, would tend to reduce British influence on the outcome of the appeals from London and Brussels.

A more serious possibility is that of despatching a high-level delegation to Baghdad. Even if Mr Bazoft's Iranian origins continue to be cited by Iraq as a reason for denying British diplomats proper access to

him, such a mission might succeed in persuading President Hussein to offer Mrs Parish — whose role in the affair appears to have been minimal — the prospect of early release. It would be easier to negotiate on Mr Bazoft's behalf in Baghdad than via the Iraqi embassy in London.

So far the British response to the sentences has been to accept Iraq's right to conduct its judicial procedures as it sees fit. This policy keeps the matter on a judicial plane, as far as possible, and aims to avoid raising the political stakes.

Baghdad will certainly think twice before ignoring such a strongly-worded message, and should be given a little time to consider. But if it seems that a mission to Baghdad would be received favourably there, the Government should not hesitate to send one.

Mrs Thatcher's meeting with King Hussein of Jordan yesterday opens up another avenue through which Iraq may be made aware of British dismay. The expressions of support already offered by the European Community have been unusually prompt, but it is to be hoped that the appeal will be taken up at ministerial level. Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, is thought to be especially influential in Baghdad, and pressure from him would be welcome.

The whole affair is a sobering reminder that liberal Western notions of "human rights" are still not shared by large sections of humanity. Journalists, more than most people, are obliged by their work constantly to confront these cultural limitations. When they fall victim to alien norms of justice, they deserve maximum assistance from civilised societies.

TWILIGHT OF THE HOMELANDS

The similarity between Presidents Gorbachev and de Klerk has become something of a political cliché. Nevertheless, these two reformers have more in common than courage. In both South Africa and the Soviet Union the promise of democracy has unleashed expectations and demands in peripheral satrapies which could yet de-rail the process of reform at the centre.

There is, however, one cardinal point of difference between Mr Gorbachev's trials with his rebellious nationalities and Mr de Klerk's tribulations in the homelands. The people of South Africa's "independent" homelands are seeking not more independence from Pretoria, but reincorporation into a reformed South Africa. For, if the end of apartheid is to mean anything, it must mean the end of apartheid's most expensive creations: the Ciskei, Transkei, Venda and Bophuthatswana, only the last of which, because of its mineral wealth, has any claim to economic viability.

The product of the Bantu Self Government Act of 1959, South Africa's 10 black homelands — four of which were later persuaded to accept an illusory independence — are among the last remaining structures built by the architect of apartheid, Mr H.F. Verwoerd. These scattered scraps of largely impoverished land had a dual purpose: to remove black South Africans from the all-white parliamentary system and to "reverse the flow" of blacks into South Africa's white cities.

Even when it became glaringly apparent that the black majority in "white South Africa" would continue to increase, apartheid's planners were undaunted. With the hubris and the cynicism unique to social engineers, a

Nationalist cabinet minister was able to anticipate the day when enforced citizenship of the homelands would mean that, on paper at least, "there would be no black South Africans." That dream, too, collapsed.

Today, as Mr de Klerk fans the hopes of the emergence of a non-racial democracy, South African troops, like their counterparts in the Soviet Union, keep an uneasy peace in homelands whose people are anxious to share in that process. It is easy to blame the unrest on political agitation. Indeed, it was to be expected that the enemies of peaceful negotiation within black ranks would find fertile ground in the homelands to test Mr de Klerk's resolve.

He should keep his nerve. Were he to open discussions with those homeland leaders who wish to return to Pretoria's embrace, he would defuse the unrest, in the full knowledge that by doing so he would probably unsettle those who still cling to independent office.

South Africa, like the Soviet Union, is a country of diverse and often mutually hostile ethnic groups whose existence any government ignores at its peril. But apartheid's great failure was to insist that, for black South Africans, their tribal identity was their only political attribute and then to make that identity the key, not to power, but to its shadow.

As Mr de Klerk, in an obvious reference to Verwoerdian ideology said in a recent, but largely unreported speech: "Man tries to force the great river of economic and social reality into the narrow channels of his own doctrine. In due season the flood comes and washes at least part of his endeavours away." In South Africa's black homelands the flood is rising.

Stopping fraud in documents

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health
Sir, I was interested in your coverage (report, February 26) of Operation Golding, with its worrying evidence of bogus marriages and immigration fraud. It is not, however, correct to conclude that the Government is turning its back on a possible solution.

Our 1988 Green Paper recognised the problem caused by the ready availability of birth certificates. It proposed that every applicant for one, who was not an accredited researcher, should have to offer proof of identity. However, this approach was widely criticised as needlessly bureaucratic as well as liable to hamper the work of individual family historians. Accordingly we have devised a different answer.

Under the White Paper which came out in January (Registration: Proposed for Change CM 939) there will be two kinds of certificate which can be purchased. While the unofficial "paper" copies will be obtainable by anyone, they will not be accepted by official agencies for formal purposes. Official agencies will only take cognisance of certified copies and to obtain one of these an applicant will have to provide evidence that he or she is the person named there or otherwise has a legitimate reason for purchasing it.

Alongside these proposals, the White Paper will require both parties to a marriage to give notice of it (instead of only one as at present), and normally to do so at least 15 days in advance. Registrars will have the right to require legal documents to be produced so as to establish the identity of the parties before them.

All these changes have still to be passed into law but, once that has taken place, the Government is confident that they will have a major impact on the problems which your article has highlighted.

A strategy based on the White Paper proposals, though effective, will also stop far short of the comprehensive population register advocated in Mr Redfern's letter to you (March 5). As Mr Redfern recognises, creating such a register would raise controversial questions of individual privacy which go much wider than reform of the registration service.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FREEMAN,
Department of Health,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1,
March 7.

Beating the bike ban

From Dr M. S. Brzanski
Sir, Father Delaney's difficulty (March 1) in transporting his bicycle to quayside is familiar to me. I deny British Rail the opportunity to impede my progress by cycling to an airport, then flying to my continental destination, bicycle secure and unharmed (tyres deflated) in the hold.

During the past decade airlines have been increasingly obliging. Charter flights may conjure up sad images of mass tourism, but the reward of self-propulsion is access to unchattered hinterlands — may I particularly recommend Malaga as the portal to the splendours of Andalusia, and Palermo as the gateway to Sicily.

Yours en vélo par avion,
MACIEJ BRZANSKI,
Flat 2/R,
16 North Gardner Street,
Glasgow,
March 1.

From Mr N. Giles
Sir, I have shepherded our family on two cycling holidays in France. Those who know what exquisite delights await them there should do nothing to encourage others to follow. Over-exposure to boards of English cyclists will surely destroy what is at present the most easily accessible, charming and gentle adventure available to moderately energetic families.

Yours faithfully,
N. GILES,
Avalon,
58 Brockham Lane,
Brockham,
Betchworth,
Surrey.

Mental puzzles

From the Rector of Caversham
Sir, It is hard enough having to share a bed with my wife and the entire *Encyclopaedia Britannica* nightly, but could you print the "Tournament of the Mind" in one of your profuse pull-out sections and not on the back of Coran or Freud — of whom I cannot get sight until the wee small hours?

Some of your readers are a bit thick and prefer ribs tickled rather than minds stretched.
Yours sincerely,
RICHARD KINGSBURY,
Caversham Rectory,
20 Church Road,
Caversham,
Reading,
Berkshire,
March 7.

From Mrs Hazel Bateman
Sir, With reference to Round One of the "Tournament of the Mind" (March 6): if a bath is taking 15 or 20 minutes to fill, and 30 minutes to drain, the logical answer is to obtain the services of a plumber! Yours faithfully,
HAZEL A. BATEMAN,
24 Heathlands Road,
Chandler's Ford,
Hampshire,
March 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concern about the Harrods ruling

From Mr H. J. Scrope
Sir, An alarming point arises from the answers, as reported in *The Times* (March 8), given by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to questions about the Harrods affair.

Mr Ridley is reported as justifying his decision not to use his powers under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 on the grounds that "there are no outside shareholders in the House of Fraser company". He is reported as being of the view that the Act was designed for the protection of the public in their capacity as company shareholders.

If this is his view then a company running its own private customers for as big a ride as he chooses without risk of the secretary of state applying to the court for a disqualification order under the Act.

Of course, as the minister said, the Act is there for the protection of the public; but surely it is there for the protection of the public as creditors and consumers, not as shareholders.

One of the duties of the secretary of state is to make application to the court for a disqualification order under the Act if he comes to the conclusion that to do so is "expedient in the public interest". Mr Ridley has come to his conclusion in the Harrods case. I am not seeking to query whether or not his conclusion is right, but to draw attention to the fact that the reasoning he has given in public should be a cause for alarm.

If not corrected, it could effectively pull the teeth of the Act before those teeth have even had the chance of showing they can bite. One hopes that the secretary of state will make it plain that he did not mean what he is reported to have said.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY SCROPE,
Harris and Dixon Ltd.,
21 New Street,
Bishopsgate, EC2.

Poll tax anomalies

From the Reverend Professor G. C. Stead

Sir, Second-home owners, though commonly disparaged, have often acquired, and sometimes saved from demolition, houses which are too small, too remote, or too inconvenient to be acceptable to local residents, but which, precisely because of the contrast with a well-appointed town house, make an enjoyable holiday refuge.

Even paying low rates, as at present, such an owner will probably contribute to local resources far more than he takes out; since residing only occasionally his demands on such services as refuse collection will be minimal, and for education, nothing at all.

With two units of poll tax imposed as with your correspondent (March 5), his case will be pitiable. And if anyone thinks that such an owner will get what he deserves for intruding where he is not wanted, let him consider the man who, through old age, infirmity, or change of occupation, desires to sell. He may well find that his property, instead of commanding a modest price, has become unsaleable because of its poll tax liabilities. Is he, then, and indeed his heirs, to be taxed in

perpetuity, in support of services which he has no intention or opportunity of ever using?

Yours very truly,
CHRISTOPHER STEAD,
13 Station Road,
Haddenham, Ely,
Cambridgeshire,
March 5.

From Mr Walter Harris
Sir, The Kensbridge Hotel being a business has been allocated a "non-domestic" rate. Our manager occupies a room necessary for carrying out her duties and has been registered for community charge.

However, our contract with her is that she should pay no rates or other charges in respect of the room and we must therefore reimburse her for whatever she has to pay. Although the object of the community charge was to replace rates, we are paying, in respect of that room, both rates and poll tax.

I have queried this anomaly with the community charge officer but have had no reply. No doubt he doesn't know what to do either. WALTER HARRIS (Managing Director),
The Kensbridge Hotel Group,
31 Elvaston Place, SW7,
March 8.

This is the most important decision in determining how long the prisoner will serve.

In the six months between April and October, 1988, the Home Office disagreed with the trial judge's view in 70 out of 106 cases, setting a different tariff to that recommended by the judge who had presided at the trial and heard the evidence.

Whatever his or her political abilities, a Home Office minister is unlikely to have the training and experience in sentencing required of a judge. Murders vary enormously in their circumstances and their gravity, from mercy killings to the worst examples of cruelty or premeditation. Few have even the remotest political connection.

Is it not time to entrust judges in murder trials with the same sentencing responsibility that they discharge in the case of every other criminal conviction? The result would be a more rational, open, reviewable, indeed "coherent" system.

Yours faithfully,
G. TREVERTON-JONES,
Farrar's Building,
Temple, EC4.

Maritime accidents

From the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization

Sir, Mr Max Nicholson (February 26) suggest that the International Maritime Organization is ineffective in reducing damage to marine waters. On the contrary, there is strong evidence that IMO safety measures have been instrumental in reducing serious casualties involving oil tankers.

For example, the number of major oil spills has been reduced from 25 per year during the 1970s to no more than eight per year during the whole of the decade of the 1980s. This number is still too high, but there is no doubt that it would have been even worse but for the work of IMO.

After the tragic disaster involving the *Herald of Free Enterprise* , IMO, on the proposal of the United Kingdom Government, adopted new provisions to tighten existing safety rules and requirements in relation to ro-ro ships.

Fee shortfall in nursing homes

From the Chief Executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux

Sir, When the NHS and Community Care Bill returns to the House of Commons next week, MPs will be debating a new clause of fundamental importance to the welfare of some of the most vulnerable people in the community. This relates to the plight of existing income-support claimants in residential and nursing homes whose fees are in excess of the income-support limits set nationally by the Department of Social Security.

These shortfalls which are sometimes as much as £100 per week cause anxiety and distress to frail elderly people, as they face mounting arrears and fears of eviction and homelessness. As the Bill stands, this problem will disappear for all residents who enter homes after April, 1991, as payment of their fees will become the responsibility of local authorities, who will then recoup part of the costs from residents' benefits.

However, the Bill specifically excludes from these funding arrangements all residents already in homes in April, 1991, despite the fact that this group is likely to be older and therefore more frail than those entering subsequently. Thus, there will be two systems of payment operating side by side within the same homes.

As the all-party Social Services Select Committee has commented in its recent report on the issue, What is much less fair and open to question is for the system for providing public support for the costs of residential care... to vary, not according to their needs, or even their means, but according to the date on which they entered residential care.

The new clause proposes that where existing residents on income support are faced with shortfalls, additional income support should be paid to cover these. We fully support it.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN WHITE,
Chief Executive,
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux,
115-123 Pentonville Road, N1,
March 9.

From the Editor of the Hampstead & Highgate Express
Sir, As someone totally opposed to unnecessary secrecy — something, alas, which has manifestly increased under recent Tory administrations — I shall be intrigued to discover in due course, as your front page report today promises, the identity of the "fifth man" in the British secret service.

Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB officer who defected to Britain and is now a British subject, promises to do this and much else in a book being written by himself and Dr Christopher Andrew, to be published later this year.

However, as someone who believes the law should be upheld, I am in a dilemma. My understanding of the new Official Secrets Act is that it was specifically designed to prevent former agents spilling the beans in this particular way. Indeed, why else did we pursue Peter Wright in the courts of Australia if it wasn't on the principle that old spies can't tell their tales — and make money out of them?

Gordievsky appeared on television last week and revealed, for example, how he was recruited and trained, as well as passing judgement on the allegations against Sir Roger Hollis and giving his views on what he described as the fantasy of Peter Wright's accusations of attempts to undermine the Labour Government of Harold Wilson in his much banned book, *Spycatcher*.

There is a belief that the law, old and new, can be politely ignored if the end result is either to the benefit of the Government of the day or even flattery to those involved in arcane duties on behalf of the State. I look to the Home Secretary to refute it.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAMAN, Editor,
Hampstead & Highgate Express,
Marlborough House,
179-189 Finchley Road, NW3,
March 6.

From Mr Tom Ruben
Sir, Susan Balsom, travelling from Euston to Aberystwyth on February 27, tells of the announcement asking any passenger who was a British Rail guard to please come forward. I happened to be travelling, also from Euston to Runcorn just 12 days before her journey.

After leaving Watford the chief steward made the usual announcement to the effect that the bar was now open, and then added, "If there are any British Rail catering staff travelling on the train, would they please report to the chief steward".

Is there something odd going on at Euston?

Yours sincerely,
TOM RUBEN,
6 Dene Court, Mount Avenue,
Ealing, W5,
March 3.

In case of need

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 01-782 5000.



Mr S.W. Fisk
and **Miss H.C. Slim**
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert V. Fisk, of Great Missenden, Bucks, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Slim, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

On Lennox Berkeley
A memorial requiem Mass for Sir Lennox Berkeley, CBE, will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Basil Hume, OSB, at 11 am, on Tuesday, March 20, 1990, in Westminster Cathedral.

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THE ARTS

Spiritual failings

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Those already feeling a sense of spiritual and television loss after the demise of *A Sense of Guilt* (though I fear we have not heard the last of that) must have been reassured by the upmarket intellectual version which turned up on BBC 2 last night as *Circles of Descent*. Here we had a master copier of classic paintings faced with an unfaithful wife, a one-parent mother who comes to look after him, and a schizophrenic son, not to mention a dragon aunt.

In the central role, Edward Fox gave the clenched, understated, distant performance of an actor trying to recall his agent's telephone number in order to lodge a stiff complaint about the quality of his dialogue. With some strong casting in minor roles, and characteristically intelligent camera angles, the director Stuart Burge did his best to overcome Stephen Wakeham's screenplay.

Somewhere in the morass of half-baked artistic allusions was, I think, a morality tale about forgery and the Icarus painting in which a man is seen to fall out of the sky while none of the on-lookers gives him so much as a second glance. But a lengthy quotation in the play from W.H. Auden showed that he had said it all rather better in a couple of paragraphs than Nina Bowden in an entire near-silent feature novel.

Faced with many more plays like this, I may have to go and live in Papua New Guinea where, for Saturday's *Missionaries* (BBC 2), Julian Pettifer located a promising shortage of potential converts. It would seem there are now so many missionaries in that area that uncommitted souls are in very short supply and therefore as eagerly solicited as customers for double-glazing. The locals here await new arrivals with great enthusiasm, certain that they will bring, if not a colour television set, then at least a folding currency and a reliable fridge-freezer, along with the bible and a relentless belief in fundamentalism.

The Thane hits mean streets

Peter Guttridge reports on how the Royal Shakespeare Company has won young fans abroad

New York, Upper West Side, mid-Monday morning. A flurry of snow falls between high buildings on to a shambling group of teenagers in trainers, denim and bulky jackets. Black, white and Spanish, coolly self-aware, these are Flatbush and Queens kids — way out of their neighbourhood. They enter an old building and head for the basement. A Shakespeare workshop starts there at 10. It will be run by an education team from Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company — way out of their neighbourhood, too.

The RSC's Education Department has been running these workshops for schools in New York's five boroughs for the past six years. Usually it has been *Romeo and Juliet* explained in five days to 1,000 students from all over the city. This year, it is *Macbeth* to 2,000 kids from 65 schools in nine days. That is, 18 ninety-minute sessions at around 120 kids a go.

Apparently, New Yorkers love Shakespeare. A few blocks away, Dustin Hoffman is finishing his sell-out Broadway run in *Merchant of Venice*. In the schools, Shakespeare studies are compulsory. But New York is full of actors and highly regarded theatre companies. Why are the education authorities going to the expense of bringing over the RSC?

Michael Presser, executive director of the Midtown Management Group, is the man responsible. "I won't respond to questions about cost," he says. "The cost is minimal compared to the number of students. I find it very dubious equating cost with value. We want the RSC because I



Positive student response: "Before this, I tried to stay away from Shakespeare... I'm more interested now."

believe art is international and I want to bring an international perspective to Shakespeare."

That is fine by the RSC's education director, Tony Hill. "In England, we probably do more Shakespeare training for teachers than anyone else. New York makes sense to us. We sell our expertise here, and the money is useful because it goes back directly to kids in British schools. In times of financial hardship, the RSC is to be credited for persevering with a department which doesn't directly affect what happens on stage."

"We take youngsters from every borough, every kind of school. We have a huge ethnic variety. We have the intellectually confident and we have the disaffected. We pitch the course to appeal to both without patronizing either."

Philip Banyon, a teacher from Flushing High School in Queens, takes students to London each Christmas for ten days to do the

rounds of the theatres. He has 23 at today's workshop, and all of them will eventually sit an exam involving knowledge of Shakespeare's works.

"This is a wonderful project," he enthuses. "It gives my students a hands-on approach to Shakespeare. And there is no better company to do Shakespeare. My students are committed to participate. That's all I ask of them. Participate at a hundred per cent, because 99 per cent is a bitch."

Many of the students do not realize they will be participating at all — they think they are here to see the play. "This outing is a treat for my students," says Miss Sanchez from the Samuel Jay Tilden High School in Flatbush. "Not only do they rarely go on school outings, they rarely, if ever, leave Brooklyn."

Two big black guys with amazing flat-top haircuts get restless and take the air outside. "Sure, we like Shakespeare," one says. "I

like, um, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, too." He pauses. "I can't think of no others."

Hill starts the workshop with a fast introduction, grabbing four or five from the audience to demonstrate the plot of *Macbeth*. Sound effects — screams, thunder, applause — and dramatic lighting are used to garner easy laughs.

The audience whoops. "We've done similar workshops in Britain, and it doesn't work," Hill had said earlier. "In England, you spend more time trying to convince a response because of the students' natural timidity. Here, they are more aggressive, up-front. And, because they're raised on game shows, they are more vocal."

The workshop is called "Choices" because it concentrates on the different ways *Macbeth* can be presented. Hill's assistant, Gordon Scammell, flashes upon a screen slides of famous people

who might play Macbeth, to see how the audiences react to them.

They cheer Prince Charles. Michael Douglas, Michael J. Fox and Gene Hackman all get "naahs". Donald Sutherland gets "naah", "yo" and "may be". Mel Gibson gets a massive thumbs-up — an anonymous bare-chested black guy with long dreadlocks. Princess Diana does no better than her husband in the casting for Lady Macbeth, though Cher, Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep are all seen as contenders.

Youngsters of specific physical types are brought out of the audience by Scammell to audition for Macbeth. "Remember, Macbeth has to be capable of 'unseaming an enemy from navel to chops'." He points at John — a strong, broad-shouldered kid. "This guy could do it." John raises an eyebrow laconically.

Scammell demonstrates the disembowelling with a prop sword on a black youngster. "If this were for real, his breakfast would be hanging around his knees," he says, cheerfully. "I didn't have no breakfast," the youngster retorts.

John, the stocky guy, says later: "It's a bit boring if you're not on stage. We read the play and saw the movie last week, so we're pretty sick of it." His is a minority opinion. Says one, aggressive black girl: "Before this, I tried to stay away from Shakespeare. But I guess I'm more interested now. I don't know it any better, but I'm interested."

The workshop builds up to a grand finale, where half a dozen students are miked up, in costume and with lighting effects, to do part of a scene. It ends with a huge smoke bomb going off. The youngsters cheer wildly as smoke blows around them.

Philip Banyon, the Queens teacher, sees nothing strange about New York youngsters studying an Elizabethan English playwright. "He's not just an English playwright," he says pettily. "We're talking about the most significant man in the theatre and a major force in poetry. We're talking about the bard."

There were some subtle variations here and there a technical hitch made an interesting change; Chadwick could have been fitted for heavy-duty guitar-axe in one or two songs; and by the encore Bickers' replacement, Simon Walker, was to be heard plucking guitar solo bordering on the heroic.

This could be read as a late bid to steal some limelight, but there is no upstaging Chadwick, who despite his shyness seems to have been designed to attract attention. His body language says one simple thing: intense.

Heavy on the howls

ROCK

Jasper Rees

House of Love
Albert Hall

When they made their nerve-racked large-venue debut at the Town and Country last autumn, this quartet were a House of Love by name but a chamber of horrors by nature. If some reports about internal friction are to be believed, the problem lay with lead guitarist Terry Bickers, who was having no problems living up to his name.

Bickers has since departed, and without him a band unreasonably hyped as the new Smiths have put their false start behind them and begun again. Frontman Guy Chadwick admitted as much on Friday night, when he described the recently released *Fontana*, which includes a remix of their classic first single "Shine On", as "our second debut album".

Still, the highlights of a much improved live show tended to be from their first album, *The House of Love*. "Read", "Christmas" and "Hope" all stick to a basic House of Love formula: a delicate melody bracketed underneath by a kindergarten bass line, and above by a howling monotone on guitar, with Chadwick's guitar providing a wall of sound as a backdrop. It is crude, but whether done very loudly ("Real Animal") or "Salome" or relatively softly ("Man to Child", "Plastic"), it works.

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Protest, patriotism and pederasty

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Saint Oscar
Hampstead

Sartre wrote a book called *St Genet* to argue, in his cerebral French way, that there was a kind of reverse holiness in his fellow-dramatist's undeviating commitment to deviancy. The literary theorist Terry Eagleton has similar reasons for canonizing Oscar Wilde in this, his first play. At some odd, owlish level he seems to believe that his subject's pederasty was a protest against the occupation of Ireland, a V-sign brandished at British imperialism.

To say that his play is longer on ideas than on common sense or dramatic event is not necessarily to condemn it. After all, Shaw shamelessly sacrificed plot for intellectual debate, and still held his audiences' attention. But for all his mental agility and sophisticated humour, Eagleton is lacking in Shavian variety, momentum and fun.

The Field Day Theatre Company's production, directed by the dramatist Trevor Griffiths, is not all purposeful talk. The cast interminably sing wry, breezy ballads about Wilde and, less happily, end by transforming him into a parody St Sebastian, sprouting arrows on suction pads. But the evening mainly consists of monologues cut into didactic dialogues. Wilde's mother (Eileen Pollock) puts the case for Irish patriotism, his friend Richard Wallace (Seamus Moran) represents socialist activism, and his prosecutor Edward Carson (Brendan Gleeson) speaks up for both an outraged establishment and an Ulster under nationalist threat.

These figures can be ploddingly predictable, but then their func-



Oscar Wilde (Stephen Rea) beneath Saint Sebastian, in *Saint Oscar*

tion is primarily to allow Wilde to show his mental paces as he confronts the prospect of gaol. With his long, drawn, moose-face contrasting strangely with his purple velvet, Stephen Rea's St Oscar is the evening's most obvious success, bringing a blast of wit to the witlessness.

More to the point, the impression he leaves is of an intricate ironist wryly watching himself as he moves from *fin de siècle* posturing to serious defiance: "you subjugate whole races, you condemn the mass of your people

to wretched toil, you have reduced my own nation to despair, and all you can think about is which sexual organ goes in where."

Charting that political awakening is the evening's main business, and its main problem. It is wishful thinking to see Wilde as a conscious or committed political creature, and sheer sophistry to imply that sleeping with boys is evidence of radicalism. If that is really so, why have red flags never flown above our public schools? Pederasty is not, after all, an anti-establishment phenomenon only.

proved less popular, possibly because audiences did not care to see how easily her three heroines ran rings round their menfolk.

Lucilla's affair with the dogged Phillabell (Nicholas Mons) is at risk because her previous lover threatens to produce her amorous letters. Lesbia (Karen Mann) cannot decide between the worthy Grand Foy and Beaumaine (Stephen Rea), a dashing young rake with whom Miranda (Melanie Sylvester) flirts in order to tease her own suitors. What appears at first sight to be a cliché complication — a love letter dropped by Lucilla's maid — neatly brings about the plot's resolution. If Lucilla (Irma Lunis) can convincingly claim the letter as a forgery, her previous correspondence can be dismissed as forgeries too. The men are fooled, the couples pair off and even the odd man out is

allowed, in this production, to depart with the less who has been thinking the spinnet.

The stage is steeply raked but towards the audience so that it faces us as a waist-high overhang, on and around which stand lidded boxes of different sizes serving as steps, seats, tea tables and, with their lids raised, screens to lurk behind. The notion that courtship is a playful game is cleverly sustained by having the cast help one another move these boxes to fresh positions, while the scenes themselves are enlivened by an energetic rally at badminton, two elegant swings (designer: Elizabeth Ascroft) and stylish acting for which the right word is pretty. Congratulations to the above named and to Linda Dobell who makes the doddering Bonnet into a gem of absent-minded interference.

CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

RPO/Groves
Barbican

So many battalions of performers swept back and forth across the Barbican's platform on Saturday night that it sometimes seemed like a remake of *War and Peace*. But in the centre was a figure much too generous in spirit ever to play Napoleon. It was Sir Charles Groves, and this epic gathering was to honour the conductor's 75th birthday.

His career, now spanning more than 50 years, is a model of unstinting and self-effacing service: to our orchestras, particularly in Bournemouth and Liver-

pool, whose standards he raised markedly and whose crises he helped to avert; to British composers, whose premises he has prepared so often and so conscientiously; to Mahler and Shostakovich, much of whose music he pioneered; and to many amateur choral and youth ensembles, on which he bestowed excellent musicianship, sturdy, unfussy interpretations and tireless encouragement.

It was fitting, then, that this celebration should climax in a brilliantly characterized and wonderfully noisy performance of Walton's *Bellszvaras*, with the Brighton Festival Chorus in superbly punchy form, Benjamin Luxon fruitfully relishing the melodrama of the baritone solo, and the Royal Philharmonic adding brass bands up the balcony sides to the riotous assembly below. At the end, Sir Charles seemed overwhelmed, and perhaps a little startled, by the emotion he had aroused.

But this was an evening of many parts. First, about 30 brass and percussion players had offered Sir Charles a gale-force greeting, in the form of Huw Spradling's specially composed *Fanfare for an Uncommon Man*. The title may nod at Copland, but the strutting, dotted rhythms and spiced-up diatonic harmony evoked the full panoply of pomp in the Elgar and

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pool, whose standards he raised markedly and whose crises he helped to avert; to British composers, whose premises he has prepared so often and so conscientiously; to Mahler and Shostakovich, much of whose music he pioneered; and to many amateur choral and youth ensembles, on which he bestowed excellent musicianship, sturdy, unfussy interpretations and tireless encouragement.

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Epic birthday salute

Paul Griffiths

LS/Knusen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Without Michael Vyner, its animating artistic director, the London Sinfonietta is weathered about with even more doubts and worries than usual, but this first of three concerts conducted by Oliver Knussen must have done something to restore the orchestra's confidence, as it renewed the audience's keen awareness of why this institution is so necessary. Here, over four recent British works, were four recent winners for the Sinfonietta and unimaginable without such an ensemble.

First off was Robert Saxton's

chamber symphony *The Circles of Light*, which takes the form of the Schoenberg chamber symphony but fills it with panels of intensely lit musical stained glass: swirling luminous textures moving with a decisive harmonic sense. Later there was Brian Ferneyhough's compacted concerto *La chute d'Icare*, with Michael Collins making the wild solo part sound grateful and brilliant. It is an encouraging sign that both these works are now available on record, the former on a new all-Saxton album from EMI.

A neat complement to the Saxton was provided by Benedict Mason's Double Concerto for horn, trombone and ensemble,

scored for similar forces and with a similar four-movement form, but utterly different in every other respect. Where Saxton's piece is energetically self-consistent, spinning off, so it seems, from just a couple of melodic ground rules, Mason provides a Heath Robinson housing for all kinds of musical ideas and games.

The two soloists — here the excellent Sinfonietta players Michael Thompson and David Puxer — are a dispensable, Bocketian pair, talking to each other in flights of fancy, underwriting each other, sharing a world of their own creation. Sometimes that world is warped by "mistuned" harmonics on the horn,

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Who needs lessons in learning?



A recent Ilea survey found that Asian children do much better in school exams than do young white

Britons. Hans Eysenck (left), the eminent psychologist, suggests some reasons for the achievement gap

The recently published Inner London Education Authority survey of examination results contains much material of interest, but it is important to realise its limitations. The major limitation is that it is not typical of the United Kingdom as a whole. Ilea is famous for spending the most money for the worst educational results. Furthermore, the social status of the families included is somewhat lower than would be expected from a more representative authority. Finally, the different national and racial groups singled out in the report are unlikely to be representative of immigrants as a whole, and even less so of the people living in the countries concerned.

The most interesting, but also puzzling, feature of the report is the list of average examination scores, tabulated according to ethnic background. In the compilation GCE O Level, a grade A result is awarded seven points, B six points and C five points, with CSE grade 1 being equivalent to O Level grade C. On this basis children who came from an Indian background scored 22.8, on average, and Pakistanis 20.6. This compared with English, Scots and Welsh children, who scored 15.7.

This was a sizeable difference, while that between the English, Scots and Welsh children, on the one hand, and children of Caribbean origin — who scored 14.3 — was not. Most puzzling was the fact of the Bangladeshi children, who finished at the foot of the table with an average score of 9.9. The figures were culled from the results of examinations done by 18,314 pupils who sat the final year of the old GCE and CSE examinations in 1987. In some ways they are similar to results achieved nationwide in previous years. In others, they are different. Indian, Pakistani (and Chinese) children have always done well — usually, slightly better than English, Scots and Welsh children in

everything but the study of English itself; however, the difference was usually quite small. On the other hand, children of Caribbean origin were also usually below the English, Scots and Welsh children, but the gap was much greater.

It seems likely that the similarities are characteristic of real differences, while the dissimilarities are due to the peculiarities of the sample — inner London is not England, and certainly not the UK.

What causes the differences? There is, of course, the eternal debate concerning genetic and environmental causes and their relative contribution. But such a debate would be unhelpful because there is no way of finding a scientifically meaningful answer at the moment. We know that IQ is very strongly influenced by heredity (to the extent of 70 per cent or thereabouts) and that scholastic achievement is strongly influenced by IQ. However, there are many other influences as well, including home environment and expectations, the quality of the teaching and the presumptions of the teachers concerning the abilities of the pupils; the ethos of the school and the discipline enforced in it. These would, by themselves, more than account for the observed differences, without having recourse to heredity.

I would not deny the possible influence of heredity. I would merely say that it would be impossible to assert that genetic differences between the groups were in whole or in part responsible for the observed differences in scholastic achievement. It is well known that French and German children have much higher achievements than British children, yet it would be absurd to suggest that these differences were due to heredity. Behavioural genetics is a complex subject, and we simply do not have the facts on which to base any estimate of the possible genetic contribution to the observed differences.



Following a family tradition: the importance placed on education by Indian and Pakistani parents may account for their children's good results

'We must encourage competition and place greater emphasis on discipline'

So what are the main environmental causes of the high scores of the Indian and Pakistani children and the poor showing of the British and Caribbean children? Sir Rhodes Boyson, the Conservative MP for Brent North and a former headmaster, has suggested that "the reason for the poor results of white children is the breakdown of the family unit". Presumably he would include the Caribbean children in this, in contrast with the strong "extended family" tradition of the Indian and Pakistani (and Bangladeshi) families.

But while this may play a minor part, it will not do as a main

explanation. German and French families are not far behind the British in suffering the breakdown of the family unit. But school achievement there has not suffered to anything like the same extent as here.

Low expectations of parents is another reason given but that, too, must be doubtful. It used to be said that blacks did poorly at school because home expectations were low, but research has shown that both parents' and children's aspirations were as high as those of white children. Indeed, aspirations for both groups were perhaps unrealistically high. It is usually the teachers who have unjustifi-

ably low expectations of black and working-class children. However it is doubtful if their expectations of Indian and Pakistani children are much higher.

An important point might be the high value set on education by Indian and Pakistani (and Jewish) parents. White and Caribbean parents may have been influenced too much by the anti-academic, anti-intellectual, informality-worshipping educational establishment, while Indians and Pakistanis who have stuck more closely to their accustomed values have rejected these false gods and attempted to influence their children in a more sensible direction.

It is Ilea which, more than any other educational authority, has failed its pupils — as Neil Fletcher, leader of Ilea itself, recently admitted: "The comprehensive dream in the form we implemented it has palpably failed." Too much theory based on purely imaginary premises and too little practice based on ascertained fact have resulted in an educational nightmare from which only those unaffected by the rhetoric and the ideology have escaped. This is what saved Ilea's Indians and Pakistanis. It was their refusal to integrate and to worship false gods which is the most likely cause of their success.

'Too much theory based on imaginary premises and too little practice based on fact have resulted in a nightmare'

But what about the Bangladeshi children? The numbers involved are quite small, and the selection of this group of immigrants is probably too dissimilar to that of the Indians and Pakistanis to take the figures too seriously. But it would certainly be worthwhile to look into the selection of this group and also to try and discover any other differences that might account for their poor showing.

Where do we go from here? It is important to realise that while certain explanations of the figures may seem convincing we are, in truth, just guessing. The facts can only be established by scientific research. Such research has never been done, and is unlikely to be done unless things change drastically.

There are too many interested parties with axes to grind, too many authorities with territories to defend, too many civil servants afraid of finding out how wrong they have always been to allow such simple fact-finding and theory testing to take place. The cost would not be large, the end results of considerable importance, the improvement in future policy sizeable, but nothing is likely to be done.

Politicians, civil servants, local authorities, the educational establishment — none really wants to know, in case it has to acknowledge past errors and introduce new methods, such as selection, placing greater emphasis on discipline, a higher regard for intellectual values, regular achievement testing and an encouragement of competition.

If we did all that the white British children might catch up with the Indians and Pakistanis — and so might the Caribbean children. And — who knows? — they might all catch up with the schoolchildren in Germany and France.

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A smack for parents

Recently an East Sussex woman had her children placed on an "at risk" register because she smacked her son for spitting in her face. Yet it is not against the law for parents to use physical correction on their children even if, as in this case, it produces light bruising.

There was no question of the woman using excessive force and she certainly used less force than was regularly administered in our top public schools until two or three years ago.

FIRST PERSON

Lynette Burrows

She used a wooden spoon to administer three smacks on his leg, which does not sound like a person acting uncontrollably or dangerously. Moreover, numerous surveys have shown that more than 90 per cent of parents say they smack their children when they think fit, and that they believe it is necessary to do so.

Nevertheless a High Court judge upheld the decision of the council to punish the woman for doing what they did not like, and a legal specialist commented that the decision was a warning to all parents who physically punish their children.

This warning has been welcomed by the End Physical Punishment of Children (EPPC) group, publishers of a report, *No Smacking Guide to Good Behaviour*, as the shape of things to come in domestic autonomy. Does this mean that parents, as well as children, are to be under the compulsory guidance of educational and social service officials?

Since Parliament has never decided to interfere in the matter of normal family discipline, who exactly is responsible for the unilateral decision to penalize parents for doing what they believe is right for their children?

The answer is a tiny group of psychologists and sociologists who call themselves "child-care professionals". The true professional is the mother who has actually done the job full-time for a number of years, as few, if any, of today's experts have.

Therefore they are working with theories, backed up by self-justifying surveys. They are seldom confronted by the kind of reality that has enabled mothers to test and refine their childrearing over generations of closely observed experience.

The eminent Dr L.E. Holt, advocated, at the beginning of the century, "regimented conditioning" of babies to create good social habits and warned that "infants who are naturally nervous should be left much alone".

The enormously influential behaviourist J.B. Watson also advocated moulding children by control of eating, sleeping and behaviour. In *Psychological Care of Infant and Child*, his 1928 best seller, he warned sternly: "Never hug or kiss them, never let them sit on your lap. If you must, kiss them once on the forehead." He added that mother love could ruin a child's chances of happiness. What price Mr Watson today?

The point is not that such asinine advice would ever be taken seriously by most mothers. No doubt they carried on as usual giving love and encouragement to their children; but the advice had its wretched effect upon other professionals who took the academics at their own valuation, as experts in child care.

Just like the High Court judge in the East Sussex case who deferred to the "End Physical Punishment of Children" lobby, hospital administrators denied parents access to their sick children in hospital for upwards of 30 years — until the 1960s — because the slavishly minded psychologists who followed Mr Watson said that parental emotion would upset the child.

In welcoming the decision of the judge, Peter Newall, a leading spokesman for the anti-physical punishment lobby, said that it represented the beginning of the end of what 90 per cent of parents wanted.

No doubt not wishing to appear dictatorial or unrepresentative in helping to coerce parents in this way, his group has today issued a booklet of monumental condescension wherein a "professional" explains to the millions of "amateur" mothers doing the job at home, how disciplining children should be done.

Surely the time has come when parents must put up a fight against these professional childcare bureaucrats who fly in the face of everything our tradition has taught us?

They may be unable to see the harm that their theories have already done in creating conflict in the family, hooliganism in society and anarchy in many schools, but the rest of us are not so blind.

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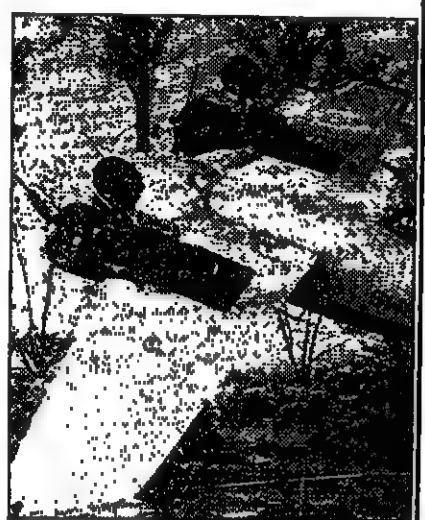
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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeySporting
fields of
the rich

Peter Waymark

● Melissa Llewellyn-Davies is a specialist in television anthropology, best known for her BBC series *Diary of a Masai Village*. In *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4, 9.00pm), she trains her lens on tribal customs nearer home as she explores the upper-crust world of polo. Once the preserve of the traditional rich, it is now being invaded by the new rich as typified by Bryan Morrison, the East End boy who made a fortune in the rock and roll business. His grand-sounding Royal County of Berkshire Club may have ruffled the traditionalists but Morrison claims that his champagne is not only cheaper but served in glasses rather than plastic cups. Glances of the Prince of Wales at the Royal Berkshire suggest that Morrison has successfully bridged the social gulf without even having to polish his accent. It is basically a case of money talking. What with having to maintain a string of ponies, with stabling and groomers, running a polo team can cost up to £250,000 a year. Apart from focusing on the tensions between the old and new rich, Llewellyn-Davies also reveals a male/female divide with chaps such as Major Ronald Ferguson saying roundly that polo is no sport for a woman and Colin Empson, a merchant banker, declaring that "it doesn't fit what I think girls are really for". What they are really for is not revealed, though such chauvinism seems terribly unfair on Claire Tomlinson, a player who holds her own with the best and has a Christmas card from Charles and Diana to prove it.



Propelled by the hurricane: a small aircraft crash-lands (BBC2, 8.10pm)

● Hurricane (BBC2, 8.10pm) is a *Horror* report on hurricanes and Hurricane Gilbert in particular, as charted by an American reconnaissance plane which at times literally fell into the eye of the storm. The programme is about the attempt by scientists to grapple with the hurricane's unpredictability and, by calling on the latest technology, to improve the chances of forecasting where the storm will hit hardest. Since Gilbert was less of a killer than many of its predecessors, some progress is being made, even if it is at the rate of half a per cent a year. An extraordinary story from the 1969 Hurricane Camille is of the residents of a Mississippi apartment block deciding to ignore the warnings, get some drink in and hold (can you believe it?) a hurricane party. A first-hand account from the only survivor reveals what a lunatic idea it was.

8.00 *Cartoon*
8.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Gillian Maxey. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sport summaries, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. **8.55** Regional news and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on the weekend's television. To participate ring Eamon Holmes on 051 614 0424.

9.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on the weekend's television. To participate ring Eamon Holmes on 051 614 0424.

9.30 *Kilroy-Silk* chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 *News* and weather followed by *The New Fred and Barney Show*.

10.25 *Children's BBC* presented by Simon Parkin begins with *Playdays*. The story is *The New Whoops*, written and told by Wilma Jackson.

10.50 *Henry's Cat* (r) 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Freddie Jones with a reading.

11.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Gloria Hunniford and Eamon Holmes with a quick and television viewers' comments.

12.00 *News* and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series presented by Sue Cook and Andy Craig. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Henry is keen to discover the facts about the "scandal" involving Bronwyn in *Neighbours*, and David's step-mother returns to Ramsey Street with disturbing news.

1.50 *Perfect Strangers*. US sitcom about Larry, a New Yorker whose life changes with the arrival from a Greek island of his cousin Sam. 2.15 *The Bill*. Detective Sgt. Bill Dwyer is sent to Africa with evidence of weapon treaty violations (r).

3.00 *Buzzar*. Jenice Long's guests are comedienne Laila Rouss, Ireland's Clara Connery with a quick and tasty stir-fry dish; beautiful Barbara Daly; Danny Baker with car maintenance advice; and Stefan Szczepanski with information on how to plant tulips.

3.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 3.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 4.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 5.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 6.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 7.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 8.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.00 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.10 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.20 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.30 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.40 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 9.50 *Poppy's Triple-EM*. 10.00 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SPORT ON MONDAY

SECTION 2

MONDAY MARCH 12 1990

Grobelaar makes a match of it

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Queen's Park Rangers... 2
Liverpool

Liverpool's place in the FA Cup, as well as their ambitions of completing an historic double were severely endangered at Loftus Road yesterday afternoon. Yet they survived and remain the favourites to win both of the principal domestic competitions in spite of the damage inflicted by their own goalkeeper.

Bruce Grobbelaar is an appealing exhibitionist of an athlete, who is sharp and agile enough to act as a sweeper and provide an extra dimension to Liverpool's flat back four. But occasionally the showman is prone to making grotesque errors of judgement which provide an extra spur to the opposition.

He did so in the 29th minute and transformed the balance of the sixth round televised tie. Consequently, Liverpool, who had been coasting through an apparently comfortable passage into the last four, were unexpectedly caught in a tempestuous passage during which their hopes might have been submerged.

QPR initially offered them, and Barnes in particular, an extravagant amount of room. The England winger, relishing the freedom afforded him by Barnes, created one opening for himself and two more for Rush before Grobbelaar radically altered the balance with almost his first contribution.

Clarke, posing aerial problems which eventually persuaded Kenny Dalglish to replace Venison with the taller Gillespie, had been blatantly pushed inside the area by Hysen within the opening few minutes. The offence, though worthy of a penalty, was ignored but the Rangers' centre forward found his own retribution.

In flicking on Sansom's long ball, he released Barker on the right. His cross, floated beyond the far post, became menacing only when Grobbelaar chose to attempt to catch it with one hand. He merely flapped it down to the feet of Wilkins who promptly volleyed Rangers into the lead.

Liverpool are satisfied

Despite conceding an equaliser to Simon Barker seven minutes from time, Liverpool were happy to settle for a 2-2 at Loftus Road yesterday. Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, admitted: "We are happy just to get QPR back to the place."

John Barnes, whose free kick brought him his 18th goal of the season and put Liverpool level at 1-1 after 55 minutes, said: "If we hadn't scored then, we would have struggled."

But Don Howe, the Rangers coach, thought that the standard of refereeing, Kevin Lynch, contributed to Liverpool's comeback with the free kick. "The referee pushed an about 15 yards back - I think he wanted us on our own goal-line. I think if the proper referee had been on, he would not have pushed us back that far."

Brian Hill, the appointed referee, had earlier been injured in a collision with Colin Clarke, the Rangers' forward.

playing for his club Hawick against Stewart's Melville on Saturday. Yesterday at the Scotland squad session at Murrayfield Stanger took only a limited part, avoiding all physical contact.

His condition will be reviewed on Wednesday but yesterday the medical advisers were saying that they were confident that Stanger would play on Saturday. Were he to be ruled out then the selectors would have a difficult job in replacing him and might have to consider recalling Roger Baird who attended yesterday's session.

The other significant injury from Saturday was to Derek Turnbull, who strained his groin, but the Hawick flanker is "certain" to be fit for Saturday, according to the medicals.



If looks could kill: Liverpool defenders survey the damage inflicted by their goalkeeper while Wilkins does an about-turn after putting Queen's Park Rangers ahead in yesterday's cup-tie

Cup draw offers double hope

By Stuart Jones
Aston Villa and Liverpool, the current leaders of the First Division, were yesterday granted the possibility of meeting each other in the FA Cup final on May 12 to complete the double. They were kept apart in the draw for the semi-finals which will become clearer after the replays are staged at Liverpool and Oldham Athletic on Wednesday night.

Manchester United, who will take part in the televised extravaganza on April 8, are sure to face one of their former colleagues. Ritchie, who has made such a prolific contribution to Oldham's progress or McGrath, the defender they sold to Aston Villa earlier this season, will renew acquaintances. United, who have been drawn away and played on a Sunday in each of the previous

rounds, are in almost identical position as in 1963. Then a week after they avoided relegation by only one point they went on to beat Leicester City 3-0 to win the Cup.

Crystal Palace who have so far dismissed opponents from lower divisions are likely to take on the strongest of the remnants. Liverpool, considered the favourites, are expected to knock out Queen's Park Rangers at the second attempt.

Don Howe, the QPR coach, has different ideas. "We have had a replay in every round so far, so I am going to stay positive about this one," he said.

Dalglish said: "We are happy enough to get a home replay, but we are still involved in the sixth round, so I am not even talking about the semi-final."

Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, who will be in the stand at Anfield on Wednesday night, said: "It is great for our supporters because the club has taken a lot of stick. We have become famous through some of our exploits this season, and it is great to turn it round a little."

Following the draw William Hill, the bookmaker, offered the following Cup odds: Liverpool 5-4 favourites, Manchester United 7-2, Aston Villa 5-1, Crystal Palace 7-1, Oldham Athletic and Queen's Park Rangers both 12-1.

Wrexham are tops
Wrexham's 2-0 victory over Stockport County on Friday earned them three invaluable League points and Bobby Robson's vote for the Barclays Performance of the Week. A local boys' club will collect the £650 prize-money.

penalty in a 22-6 win - against Blackheath on Saturday. It was Webb's first game for his new club since leaving Bristol and it is the experience of his 16 caps between 1987-89 which has earned him the elevation rather than the mixed fortunes he has endured since breaking his nose during Bristol's league match with Saracens in mid-January.

"We looked at the options, particularly because Simon Hodgkinson was having trouble with his knee, and decided we wanted a specialist full back on the bench," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said. "It's a difficult situation, where you are going into a high-pressure area, and it was important to have someone who had been in that situation before. Despite the fact that Jon hasn't been playing first-team rugby recently, he hasn't stopped being a good player."



Simon Sherwood marks your card for Cheltenham

SPORT ON MONDAY

The Times today features the best reports, comments and pictures of the weekend's events in our special Sport on Monday section. It was introduced last Monday to give our readers an even better service on sports news and analysis.

Today, our coverage includes not only the pick of the events but also an expert view of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival by Simon Sherwood, who rode Desert Orchid to victory in the Tote Gold Cup last season and a new guide to the best of the sport on television in the week ahead.

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Selectors spared by withdrawal of Carey

The Times sets the scene for National Hunt's greatest occasion, the unique three-day Cheltenham meeting

Kribensis favourite as forecast going swings in his favour

By George Rae

Kribensis has ousted Beech Road as favourite for the Champion Hurdle. Hills have Michael Stoute's charge leading the market at 2-1, with Beech Road, the reigning champion, friendless at 9-4.

The dry spell on the approach to the festival has left the going on the verge of good to firm, bringing in its wake a rash of new calculations. A week ago, when soft ground seemed the order of the day, Beech Road traded at 11-8 with Kribensis 4-1.

After walking the course yesterday, Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, said: "It is a good, fast ground which I will describe officially as good but good to firm in places. The forecast is for some rain although not a significant amount."

"Once we start racing, the ground will dry more quickly because it then becomes open to the air. By Tuesday or Wednesday it could be good to firm all round."

Stoute does not share the view that Kribensis's task has been made easier. "Beech Road has got his act together this season," he said. "He's full of confidence and is sure to take a lot of beating. Kribensis is in great form, but champions are always hard to overcome."

Nor is there any hint of despondency in the Beech Road camp. Jonathan Geake, son of Beech Road's owner, Tony, and assistant to Toby Balding, said: "I don't feel that he will be seriously inconvenienced by fast ground, but it does enhance the prospects of his rivals. I can also see Morley Street running a big race for us in the Champion."

Among the outsiders, Chris Grant will have his first Champion Hurdle ride on Kevin Morgan's Island Set, while Mark Dwyer partners the Jim Old-trained Mole Bored.

Martin Pipe and Jenny Pitman are two trainers less than enthusiastic about the prospect of ever-drier ground. "I'm worried about the going," Pipe said. "It certainly won't help Bonanza Boy in the Gold Cup."

Pipe will lead off his challenge with Re-Release in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but has only one horse in mind as a banker: "Desert Orchid."

The Jenny Pitman stable, which has marshalled a 16-strong challenge, is also uneasy. "Mark and I will assess the going tomorrow," David



Stait, her assistant, said. "We would certainly take horses out if we felt it to be in their best interests, but decisions have to be taken on a day-to-day basis and according to the individual concerned. You have to remember, though, that the weather at Cheltenham is always unpredictable and it could all change again."

Richard Dunwoody looks the main beneficiary of the drying ground. Kribensis, his Champion Hurdle mount, is suited by less testing conditions, while Desert Orchid's already formidable Gold Cup chance will prosper further on fast ground.

There are 14 five-day declarations for the Tote-sponsored Gold Cup, with all the principals standing their ground.

The meeting has all the indications of producing a record betting turnover. "We expect to take £20 million over the three days with every race attracting £1 million," Mike Dillon, the Ladbrokes spokesman, said yesterday.

"If Desert Orchid wins, we expect to pay out around £2 million on the Gold Cup. People love to back him."

Carroll Hill Lad, five times a winner this season, may miss Wednesday's £50,000 Sun Alliance Chase. "I'm not 100 per cent happy with him," trainer Gordon Richards said yesterday.

Simon Sherwood, who rode Desert Orchid to win last season's Gold Cup, marks your card for the big event

Tuesday, March 13, and the start of the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. A day well and truly ingrained in the imagination of every jumping enthusiast, whether Silver Ring punter, owner or trainer.

There are no three days in the calendar to compare with Cheltenham, and nowhere is it more evident than in the jockeys' changing room. The atmosphere is unique. To ride at Cheltenham is privilege enough, but to be in the position I was last year, partnering Desert Orchid to victory in the Gold Cup, is probably the ultimate thrill.

Conditions were appalling on Gold Cup day last year, although the memory of that morning is probably more vivid in my mind than most. Do not believe that jockeys are immune from nerves: the secret is to know how to control them.

I stayed not far from Cheltenham with Nigel Twiston-Davies, and was awake early on Gold Cup morning. The first stirrings of unease came from a passing car: was that the sound of slush I heard? I discounted it, but curiosity soon got the better of me. It was true: not a hint of sun, just snow.

It will take something quite extraordinary to make me feel as ill and depressed as I did when I saw that snow. All the agonizing on the run up to Cheltenham over Desert Orchid's participation in the Gold Cup and then snow. The gods, it seemed, were not on our side.

My already speeding mind wrestled with a dilemma. We had not come this far to back out, but Desert Orchid could certainly do without ploughing his way through three and a quarter miles of hock-deep mud on a racecourse he clearly did not like. The best solution would be racing to be abandoned and the Gold Cup run in more agreeable conditions later.

Bravery from all quarters won the day. From the Burridges and David Elsworth for deciding to run, and from Desert Orchid, whose battling qualities from the last were unbelievable. I could tell, even in those atrocious conditions, he would not let Yahoo get the better of him. He is a truly remarkable horse.

The memory of last year's Gold Cup leads the field but I have many Cheltenham memories to savour. My first festival winner on Glyde Court in the Kim Muir for Fred Winter, and the Sun Alliance double for the Heaths and my brother Oliver with The West Awake and Rebel Song in 1988 stand out.

It was a tremendous training feat on Oliver's part and I maintain to this day that I have never sat on a horse so



Barnbrook Again and Simon Sherwood clear the final fence on the way to victory in last year's two-mile Queen Mother Champion Chase

finely tuned for the occasion than The West Awake that day.

Barnbrook Again winning last season's Queen Mother Champion Chase was another great thrill, and looking to this year's festival there is no better horse with which to start.

He was once earmarked as a Gold Cup candidate but his most recent run

at Newbury clearly showed three miles is too much for him, and once again the Champion Chase is his target. Over two miles his cruising speed is amazing. You think you may be going too quickly, but when you ask him he finds another gear. Last year they went so quickly he could not dictate the pace but he certainly

prefers to bowl along in front. Backers can get the meeting off to the perfect start with Bitter Back in the Waterford Supreme Novices' Hurdle. She is closely related to Celtic Shot, the former champion hurdler, and has done nothing wrong in three races. Last year she had only one run, when I rode her myself, to finish a close second to Sondrio, who went on to win this race last year.

his year, following a slight hold-up in training because of a knocked suspensory, she was beaten only a head by Riverhead at Sandown. Indeed, had Tom Morgan not put up 11lb overweight the result might have been reversed. She finally gained her just reward when trotting up at Haydock and will take all the beating.

Beech Road holds second claims to repeat last year's victory in the Champion Hurdle. He impressed me in his latest run when a head second to Vagador, who was receiving 14lb, at Fontwell. The course did not suit him, nor the way the race was run, so in the circumstances it was a good performance.

Of his rivals, Kribensis impressed when he won the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton. He has great acceleration, and with another year under his belt looks a far stronger horse. He will do better than last season but I still have doubts about the Cheltenham hill.

Cruising Altitude, trained by Oliver, will not be far away if the ground comes up soft. Ignoring his last run when third to Kribensis at Wincanton, he prefers to race left-handed and in any case Oliver left him short of work so as not to leave his Champion Hurdle chance at Wincanton.

On Wednesday, Royal Athlete, who goes from strength to strength, looks the answer to the Sun Alliance Chase. He was unlucky when brought down by Arctic Call at Kempton last time but had previously annihilated a good field in the Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot. Assuming his confidence has not been affected, he is the one they must catch.

On Thursday, Call Collect should, barring accidents, win the Foxhunters' Chase. In a season when good hunters are thin on the ground, Call Collect appears to be in a class of his own.

That leaves the Gold Cup. What more can I say about Desert Orchid? On the form book he is in a different county. The minus points are the left-handed course and, more importantly, the ground if it were to be especially soft. They could influence the result, but I doubt it.

I was at Whinbury last week and also saw Cavvies Crown. He looks magnificent and I think he will run a big race. Last year he lacked sparkle but you could not fault his performance at Wincanton last week. He jumped for fun and won in a canter.

Bonanza Boy's hopes rest entirely on the ground being bottomless, and it is asking a lot of a relative novice in Toby Tobias to win a Gold Cup, particularly as he failed to complete at Newbury last time.

But however I look at the race, there is only one winner: Desert Orchid.

Irish relying on Cushinstown to end depressing sequence

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Irish backers' love affair with Cheltenham was this year with the whiff of a 40-runner challenge. The book-makers envisage tears again this year: Corals offer only 13-8 about another blank week, with one success quoted at 7-4.

The prospect of drying ground holds out the prospect of firm upsets, and it remains to be seen whether the Irish banker, Cushinstown, will cope with the conditions in the meeting's oldest race, the four-mile National Hunt Chase.

Cushinstown has been competing on soft ground this winter, putting together three wins over fences, including the £25,000 Red Mills Chase at Gowran Park. He gave 7lb and a 12-length beating to Aughanville, and the runner-up subsequently scored in the Dawn Run Chase at Fairyhouse. Cushinstown, the first Cheltenham runner for Co Waterford

trainer David McGee, looks a class above the opposition. If there is a question mark over Cushinstown's ability to handle fast going, it will not apply either to Kilich in the Arkle Challenge Trophy or Magic Million in the Triumph Hurdle.

Kilich won the first race of his career as a two-year-old at Galway on good to firm ground and has since proved himself equally effective on all going. He is still a novice over fences — this year he only has three runs in a chase — but he showed plenty of ability at Naas earlier this month when going clear on the Flat to beat Ishatolact by 10 lengths.

Mick O'Toole, who has one of the best records at Cheltenham of any present-day Irish licensee, has gone for a major coup over Magic Million, who is also indifferent to the ground.

This year Magic Million has

won his two races, including the Solihorgan Hurdle at Leopardstown last month when he beat Rare Holiday by five lengths with On Deposit, destined to win his next two races, another five lengths further back.

The most controversial of the Irish runners this year has to be Scally Owen from the Paddy Mullins stable. In recent weeks Scally Owen has prompted parliamentary questions, several debates on radio between Cahir O'Sullivan and Irish Dail Deputy Brendan McGee, as well as a demonstration at Punchestown when he came home an easy winner of the Irish National Hunt Novices' Hurdle Series final. He likes to make his own running, and when he gets his own way he is a formidable machine. In such circumstances he might never be headed in the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle.



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SKIING

Top two continue to battle

Saalen - The World Cup may be decided by Armin Bittner and Alberto Tomba will remain competitive as ever as the slalom races make the final appearance of the men's Alpine year today.

Bittner, of West Germany, the slalom World Cup winner for the second successive year, and Tomba, the Olympic champion, are already jockeying for positions for next season.

Tomba is convinced that only injury kept him from taking the slalom crown this time. A broken collarbone, sustained in December, put him out of action for two months and he still considers himself only 80 per cent fit.

Both men have won twice this season - but only once apiece in an event in which the other has finished.

Bittner, determined not to be runner-up to the Italian in Gaillo, Norway, last Thursday, after Tomba had set the fastest first-leg time, was too aggressive and skidded off the course.

Though Bittner beat his rival into second place in Veysonnaz last Sunday, the Bavarian would love to cap his successful season with a more emphatic triumph over Tomba today.

When Tomba won the season's second slalom in the American resort of Waterville Valley in November, he had a 1.73sec advantage over Pirmin Zurbriggen.

Heavy snowfall during the interval between the two runs made the course more than a disadvantage to the low-order skiers.

France secured four of the 10 leading places, including the winner, Carole Micre, with 2min 9.2sec. Kristi Terjan, of the United States, from a start position of 25, split the French domination by finishing second, just 0.06sec behind the winner.

In third place was the little-known Florence Magnaud. With twelfth place, Anita Wachter, of Austria, secured her points win in the overall World Cup giant-slam standings.

ICE SKATING

Paid ranks beckon Trenary

From John Hennessy, Halifax, Nova Scotia

This time she deliberately came out to watch and absorb the atmosphere before her name was called. In, as is her way, skater's heart out, with a prodigious triple axel, made to look ridiculously easy, to light the way, but it could not be enough. That disastrous set of loops in the compulsory figures on Wednesday had placed too big a milestone round her willing neck.

Halifax represented, surely, Trenary's last chance of winning a title which would substantially enhance her prospect in the professional career which beckons.

With the compulsory figures no longer standing in her explosive way, it looks to be inevitable that she will be invincible from next year.

Meanwhile, the title was now there for Trenary's taking, but she still had the pitfalls of four minutes of skating to negotiate to overhaul another American, Kristi Yamaguchi, for the second place on the night which would seal her home.

In the event, she rose superbly to the challenge. Trenary is a beautiful skater, with a repertoire that depends as much on artistry and precision of edge as jumping gymnastics. All in all, a delight to watch.

The triple toe loop to double toe loop combination that had failed her in the original programme and threatened her position was this time perfectly executed. Her one remaining fear, as she confessed later, was the triple flip, the hardest jump in her programme.

When that, too, was safely landed, in a glitter of rhinestones and blade reflection, she knew she was safe. Trenary says she is not sure where she goes from here. Most of us can guess. With her looks, her title, her class and a nationality which offer the greatest chance of commercial exploitation, she would be foolish not to turn professional.

The winners, for the second time, of the ice dance title for the Soviet Union, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarev, must also be wondering what the future holds. Their defeat by Isabelle and Paul Dunesany, French brother and sister, in the final dance was a serious setback to their hopes for the Olympic title in two years' time.

RESULTS: Women: Final positions: 1, J. Trenary (USA), 2, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 3, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 4, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 5, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 6, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 7, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 8, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 9, K. Yamaguchi (USA), 10, K. Yamaguchi (USA).

RESULTS: Men: Final positions: 1, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 2, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 3, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 4, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 5, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 6, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 7, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 8, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 9, J. Yamaguchi (USA), 10, J. Yamaguchi (USA).

be implemented very quickly." Lawrence Demmy, a member of the ISU executive council, said, adding that the ISU council had put up the motion "not with the intention of bringing back the former champions, but to keep up with the times. Other sports such as tennis have done it, so why not skating?"

Demmy said he was wary about the proposal. "My feeling is that open competition is inevitable but I am concerned we have moved too quickly too soon. A year ago it was just an idea, now we are very near a vote on it," he said.

Door opens for Witt

Halifax (Reuters) - The governing body of figure skating, the International Skating Union (ISU), will vote in May on a proposal that could make professionals eligible for competition as early as next year. It is accepted, Brian Borzano, of the United States, and Katarina Witt, of East Germany, the 1988 Olympic champions, would be eligible to defend their titles in 1992.

If the proposal receives the required two-thirds majority at the ISU Congress, the rule could take effect next season. "If it passed, I would think it would

be implemented very quickly."

Demmy said he was wary about the proposal. "My feeling is that open competition is inevitable but I am concerned we have moved too quickly too soon. A year ago it was just an idea, now we are very near a vote on it," he said.

Demmy said he was wary about the proposal. "My feeling is that open competition is inevitable but I am concerned we have moved too quickly too soon. A year ago it was just an idea, now we are very near a vote on it," he said.

RALLYING

Lancias still dominate

By A Special Correspondent

The Italian company, Lancia, continued its domination of the world rally championship in Portugal where its Integral models filled the first five places at the end of the five-day event on Saturday.

The Italian world champion, Massimo Biasion, collected his third win in succession, and Lancia's fourth, and has moved up to second place in the drivers' championship. He is now only three points behind his Lancia colleague, Didier Auriol, of France.

The last remaining challenge to the Lancias disappeared early in the final day when the Spaniard, Carlos Sainz, who had held the lead briefly midway through the event, was forced to retire his Toyota Celica from second place when the transmission failed.

RESULTS: 1, M. Biasion (It), Lancia, 57min 57sec; 2, D. Auriol (Fr), Lancia,

BOXING

Carroll out of touch

Lamezia Terme (Reuters) - Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, weight title on course, beating off a listless challenger from Ronnie Carroll, of Britain.

Belcastro, aged 29, making the fourth defence of the title he won in March 1988, won a unanimous points victory after neither boxer seemed enthusiastic about.

The Italian's powerful left hand rarely found its target in the early stages, while the Glasgow-born Carroll, ranked sixth in Europe, seemed reluctant to take the initiative. Belcastro started to make the running in the eighth round, finding his range and aggression and hurting his opponent with a flurry of punches. Carroll was given a standing count in the tenth.

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would need to be adjusted. Fifty points shared in this way would hardly have been credible a few

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP, to whom applications (12 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees, not later than Friday 23rd March 1990. (Candidates outside the British Isles need submit one copy only.)

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Further particulars available from Mrs J M P. Smith, Staffing Department, The University, Southampton, SO9 5BN, to whom applications (12 copies) should be sent by 6 April 1990. Applications should be sent to the Director of Staffing Services (AS) The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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University College London
LECTURESHIPS IN
PHILOSOPHY

For one of the two lectureships preference will be given to candidates with an interest in 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy but they will be expected also to have a wider competence in research and teaching in contemporary philosophy.

For the second post there is no preference as to areas of competence.

The posts will be tenable from 1 October 1990.

Applications, including curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, should be sent by the closing date of 9 April to the Head, Department of Philosophy, University College London, Gower St, WC1E 6BT. Equal Opportunities Employer.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
REGIUS CHAIR OF LAW

The Secretary of State for Scotland invites applications for appointment to the Regius Chair of Law in the Department of Private Law which will fall vacant on 30 September, 1990, by reason of the retirement of Professor David M Walker, CBE, QC, LL.D.

Applicants should have a strong academic background in Scots Law and, preferably, some professional experience of the practice of law in Scotland.

Persons interested in being considered for appointment to the Chair may obtain further particulars from the Secretary, Scottish Education Department, Room 324, 33 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1DN to whom applications (3 copies, except in the case of overseas candidates who may submit only one copy), giving the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent not later than Monday 9 April 1990.

ALSOP WILKINSON CHAIR IN LAW

Applications are invited for the newly established Alsop Wilkinson Chair in Law. The establishment of this chair, which is part of a major planned development in law, has been made possible through a generous donation from Alsop Wilkinson, Solicitors of Liverpool, Manchester and London.

The holder of the Chair should be able to provide strong academic leadership on legal scholarship and should be able to demonstrate the drive and initiative to become Director of the proposed new Research Centre for Business and Professional Law, leading a team of colleagues.

The salary will be within the range approved for non-clinical professional salaries at present not less than £25,919 p.a., and will initially depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Prospective applicants are invited to contact the Head of Department, Professor P.J. Rowe (061-704 2805).

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 31 March 1990, by the Director of Staffing Services (AS) The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

How a Midlands school is turning the soft options of art and craft, woodwork and metalwork into challenging design projects for big business

Industry enjoys a touch of class

As the experts debate the merits of grammar or the need to teach pure mathematics, a real revolution is taking place in the schools. Art and craft, always considered the soft option, is to be given the status of an essential part of the National Curriculum.

It will require a change of philosophy for the teachers who for too long have considered themselves subservient to the "proper" academic subjects. The new course will cover art and craft, home economics, computers, woodwork and metalwork but at the same time introduce entirely new ideas to the schools.

Children will be asked, for example, to design a car park or a check-out for a supermarket which will use all the disciplines. The finished article must look good, work and be cost-effective.

As most schools struggle with this idea, it has become a reality in Birmingham at the 800-boy King Edward's School. When Sir Trevor Holdsworth opened the privately financed £1-million design centre on Thursday much of the credit must go to the Chief Master, Mr Martin Rogers.

Mr Rogers, a former chemistry teacher and head of Malvern College before moving to Birmingham in 1982, decided that art and craft teaching was, to say the

least, in need of repair. He says: "Some very good work is done but there is also much which is humdrum. Much has been developed for boys and girls in the lower ability ranges. There is almost nothing aimed specifically at the above-average pupil. There is far too high an emphasis on 19th-century technology. Some work is done with glass fibre and polymers but the vast mass is with wood and steel and the scale of work is too large."

In September 1984 he persuaded the governors of the 400-

'We are teaching real-life skills'

year-old Foundation of the Schools of King Edward Vth in Birmingham, which runs seven schools catering for 4,500 pupils, of the need for a new policy on teaching design.

He said: "Design education must contain two strands, the technological and the aesthetic. It must be concerned with the whole concept of conceiving, designing and making an article which fulfils a useful purpose. It must also be concerned with fulfilling a real demand - selling - and produced under strict financial control - costing."

Once the governors approved the scheme, Mr Rogers set about raising money. The breakthrough came when Sir Trevor, then chairman of GKN, donated £100,000.

How does Mr Rogers explain his zeal? "Industry is at last getting seriously concerned about education and forming links between schools. If we can develop the project properly it will help to destroy the anti-industry ethos of the country which is very deep."

The centre is opening a week after the Government published its programme for compulsory lessons in technology as part of the National Curriculum for state schools. Most independent schools are embracing the National Curriculum on a voluntary basis. In technology, King Edward's will be among the leaders.

The confusion surrounding the new courses is typified by the various changes in title it has experienced over the last two years, from craft, design and technology to design and technology and back to technology. Mr Rogers is unrepentant about sticking with design: "We may have to call it technology but design is the heart of the matter. In the past it has been too theoretical and has not been practical enough."

Theory for Martin Rogers was turned into reality with the



Serious business: Jeanette Dorman in the ceramics workshop gives Jonathan Williams a little guidance

appointment of Ray Willey, who joined the project in 1986 on a three-year fellowship, largely financed by the Smallpox Trust. His task was to develop a new course in design for the school which would be available nationally and to assist in the design of the new building.

Mr Willey, who ran his own design business before becoming a teacher in Barnet, Hertfordshire, was also appointed head of the school's art and design department. The course he evolved is aimed at pupils of above-average ability, based on modern technol-

ogy and modern materials. The Gatsby Foundation, a Sainsbury family trust, financed further development with two three-year fellowships worth £70,000 to work on the Design and Industry Project which also includes two state schools. One went to Mr Willey, the other to David Dickinson, a former Manchester teacher who joined the school as Mr Willey's deputy in 1987.

Before Mr Willey joined the school there were no structured courses in design with boys becoming involved in practical activity as light relief from ac-

ademic rigour. A group of sixth-formers became involved in the Avery project when the weighing machine company asked the school to develop kitchen scales for the partially sighted. About 80 companies are now involved in the Design and Industry Project, most coming into the scheme after having contributed to the centre's cost. Companies are linked with schools which they then ask to undertake various tasks. Mr Willey and Mr Dickinson are currently working with the companies to find projects that are suitable for the nine schools in the

scheme, matching ability and resources to the needs of the company.

It had been initially intended to include five industrial projects in the GCSE but this has not so far proved possible. In the meantime Mr Dickinson is writing simulated projects with the occasional "wild card", for example when a letter from an overseas company is received in Spanish.

He says: "The wild cards shift the ground from time to time to make it a bit more uncomfortable because that is what real life is like."

Ray Willey had first to convince the teachers and boys at King Edward's: "Some of the senior boys think we are the soft option but as they get into the process they find it intellectually demanding. We are teaching real-life skills, initiative and personal responsibility in making decisions for themselves."

The centre, built on various but connecting levels, has a seminar centre, design and modelling areas, workshops, a heat-treatment bay, art studio with wet work area, a dark room, soft modelling and ceramics area, a graphics room and computer network.

Mr Willey says it could be of considerable value to schools across the country but adds: "Schools are being bombarded with initiatives and there needs to be national co-ordination so that what we are doing here is tied in with what others are doing."

Splendid as the new centre is, a lot of work still remains. As Mr Dickinson says: "The main difficulty for all schools is going to be to get the philosophy right with all the different disciplines working together."

David Tytler

A Tory takes on the Government

Lord Beloff is angry at what he considers to be an attack on Britain's universities



In combat: Beloff (left) and Jackson

loans in principle, but, like other traditional Conservatives, he believes the Government has missed a chance to build a loans system which, while not deterring students from taking a university place, brings private money into higher education for expansion.

Second, along with fellow historian Earl Russell, he objects to the use of "enabling legislation" - bills that give ministers powers to act but do not spell out what they will actually do.

One friend and colleague at Oxford said of Lord Beloff that the Government had "amused his sense of constitutional propriety".

He thinks somehow that people should argue things through and take the

arguments seriously. The three-line whip on the Lords, combined with the lack of detail on how the loans scheme will run, means that the Lords cannot debate whether the Government can actually make the loans work. "He really does think that that the Government has gone very much off the rails and that there is an increasing degradation in relation to issues such as the poll tax and student loans."

A political historian of some distinction, having published works on Soviet, American and British foreign policy and constitutional politics, Lord Beloff, like Mr Jackson, is a former fellow of All Souls. Others may be "pretty brusque" - but there is no doubt that he speaks with conviction not clouded by ideology. His dissatisfaction comes from a passionate belief that universities should be left to run their own affairs.

Sam Kiley

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EDUCATIONAL

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Further information and application forms available from The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Environmental Design, University of Wales College of Cardiff, P.O. Box 197, Cardiff, CF9 1DX. Tel: 01-4800 (Ext. 5782) or 674757.

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APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the Headship of Whitgift School which falls vacant on 1st September 1991 after the retirement of Mr. David Raeburn who has been Headmaster since 1970.

Whitgift School is one of two schools within The Whitgift Foundation which was established in 1596 by John Whitgift Archbishop of Canterbury.

The School is an independent Day School for boys, aged 10 to 18, and represented on the Headmasters Conference. The roll in September 1990 will be about 920 boys, including 280 in the Junior Department aged 10 to 13. The school has excellent buildings and facilities and is in an outstandingly good position to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

Full particulars of the appointment may be obtained from The Clerk to the Foundation, The Whitgift Foundation, North End, Croydon, CR9 1SS.

Closing date for applications Friday 20th April 1990

LANCING COLLEGE
Senior School of the Woodard Corporation

Applications are invited for the post of resident College CHAPLAIN to take up his duties from 1st September 1990, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Chaplain, who should be firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, will be responsible for the leadership of Chapel Services and for the pastoral care of the whole School community. This challenging appointment should appeal equally to a priest experienced in parish duties or to one already in a school chaplaincy. The Chaplain will join a thriving Religious Studies Department and will undertake a light teaching commitment mainly in the Lower School (up to GCSE) and with General Divinity in the co-educational Sixth Form.

Applications, including the names of two referees, should be made in writing to THE HEAD, MASTER, LANCING COLLEGE, SUSSEX, BN15 0RW. Tel No. 0273 452217, and should reach him by Saturday 17th March.

SELWYN COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

KESNEY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Selwyn College proposes to elect a Kesney Research Fellow, the post to be tenable from 1 October 1990 for two years, normally renewable for a third year.

Further particulars available from The Master's Secretary, Selwyn College, Cambridge, CB3 9DQ. (Closing date for applications: 27 April 1990).

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EDUCATION

Survival of the smallest

Some small rural schools fear the threat of merger or of being suffocated by red tape, reports Douglas Broom

In a tiny stone-built schoolroom high on a Pennine hillside, Andy Slater is leading out a group of 69 children he calls "my family". Taking a turn with the group — and later in the lunch with the custard spoon, too — is part of his day as headmaster of Salterlee Junior and Infant School, a small school clinging to existence and the side of the Shibden Valley in West Yorkshire.

It is a scene that 10 years ago seemed on the verge of vanishing forever. But, as he told the National Association for the Support of Small Schools (NASSS) annual meeting at the weekend, Mr Slater believes the tide is turning. Although small schools are still being closed, Mr Slater says the growing enthusiasm among townships for life in the country could prove the salvation of rural education.

"The children in this school used to come from families who had lived around here for 500 years," he says. "Now the area is packed with everyone from solicitors to sales assistants, from men to clerks — they all live up here. When the weather gets bad, the roads are impassable to two-wheel-drive vehicles. People moved away because they could not get to work or get their kids to school."

"Now it is four-wheel-drive land: everyone seems to have a Range Rover-style vehicle and parents, who choose our kind of school, can get their children here, whatever the weather."

Despite the growth in rural population in Calderdale, the local council, which is controlled by Labour on the casting vote of the mayor, has plans to close four rural schools — two of them in the next valley to Salterlee. Mr Slater's school seems safe for the time being. When he took over as head in 1982, it had a closure notice hanging over it and was down to 38 pupils.

"Six hundred schools closed and six stayed open that year," he recalls. "We were one of the six." Now the school is full and there is no room on the waiting list until 1994. It also supports an active playgroup for 35 under-fives.

But just as some small schools appear to be winning the numbers game, a new threat to their existence is looming on the horizon in the shape of



Playing for time: headmaster Andy Slater and some of his "family" of 69 pupils in the Shibden Valley, West Yorkshire

the National Curriculum. Like other schools, Salterlee faces the inevitable problems of overwork caused by the massive testing and recording apparatus the new curriculum will bring.

But small schools face the additional difficulty of convincing sceptical education authorities they can cope. Across the country, councils and education officials have urged the need to merge small schools to enable them to provide the facilities demanded by the new curriculum.

Mr Slater argues this is unnecessary and dangerous to the education of pupils. "People keep telling us that the National Curriculum will have a bad effect on small schools," he says. "I happen to be one of the 4 per cent who believe that it will actually work. I am dubious about whether standards will rise but the curriculum itself can be made to work."

He concedes that there will be a massive growth in the amount of paperwork done by teachers, but he argues that in terms of teaching much of what the curriculum demands is already being done.

That there will have to be an element of formality is undeniable, but Mr Slater takes the view that much of the "sloppy" informality in which teachers indulged in the 1960s

was responsible for much of the bad publicity now suffered by schools.

"We are now reaping the whirlwind of all the informal stuff that followed the Plowden report," he says. "Good teachers know how to strike a balance

"If we were forced to do everything the Government wants, we would never stop writing assessments"

and good teachers will be able to cope with the National Curriculum provided they are given support.

"But unless something is done to reassure people and to lighten the load of assessment, good teachers will become like rare butterflies. In big schools they will be sucked under."

So why is he so confident that the new curriculum will work? "Because so much of it is based in existing good practice. Teachers are being panicked, but the fact is that a lot of it is what they are doing already."

His view is strongly echoed by Mrs Molly Styles, the National Co-ordinator of the NASSS. "People are

being frightened needlessly," she says. "We believe that small schools are actually better placed to cope than the big ones because they have small classes and the close relationship between pupils and teachers."

At Salterlee, Mr Slater teaches the top three years of juniors as one class of 21 pupils. Mrs Sue Walsh, who teaches the reception and first-year infants (class size 23), says: "I think we can do the teaching, but it is the testing and the paperwork that terrifies us. If we were actually forced to do everything the Government says it wants we would never stop writing assessments."

Mrs Elaine Bateman (top infants and first year juniors, class size 25) agrees. "I do not think that anyone has really looked at it from the teachers' point of view in terms of what can physically be done."

Mr Slater believes that the very uniformity of the National Curriculum could damage the small schools' greatest asset — its ability to treat people as individuals. He says: "Children need structured teaching and the National Curriculum will give them that. But they also need to feel valued. We are like an enlarged family here. I regard all the children as members of my family."

Derek Fatchett warns that Britain is falling behind its competitors because of a poor education policy

Cost of failing to train for the future

isters seem to accept the need for change. Their actions, however, suggest otherwise, and to support this assertion a catalogue of evidence could be presented.

Take the resources committed by the Department of Employment to work related further education. At 1986-87 prices, the Government was spending £106.3 million in 1988/9, in 1990/91 it plans to spend £89.8 million, a cut of 16 per cent. A similar picture emerges in relation to its commitment to capital projects for further education colleges, a sector of the education system badly in need of additional resources.

For 1990-91, local education authorities put in bids of £186.1 million for capital spending on further education colleges. True to form, the Government responded with £65 million, just over a third of the estimated needs.

The most serious criticisms

of the Government, however, can be found in its own figures, published in the recent Expenditure White Paper, when it set out its targets for those aged over 16 in full-time education. In 1988-9 there were 642,000 students aged 16 to 18 in full-time education; by 1992-3 the Government is planning for 568,000, a reduction of 11.4 per cent.

Much of the decline can be attributed to demographic factors, but the figures also show that rather than seeing the falling numbers as an opportunity to push up participation rates, education ministers are prepared to drift with the demographic tide. This lack of ambition for our post-16 education system also raises questions about the Government's confidence in its own education reforms.

As with all sections of our education system, this Government lacks ambition. There are no clearly defined targets for post-16 provision. In a policy statement to be published today, the Labour Party will put forward proposals aimed at enhancing the status of the education and training of those over 16 years of age.

The approach can be summarized as having three main characteristics: proposals designed to increase participation in full-time post-16 education, to provide vocational and technical education of equal standard and status as that available for young people in most western European countries; and to discourage the employment of young people without appropriate training opportunities.

These proposals are consistent with the analysis put forward by the CBI, the TUC and individual employers. In fact, it seems that only the Government is now out of step. Conversely, it seems committed to a system which has failed to deliver at the level and the quality which we need.

It is stranded, supporting the unsustainable while our competitors move further and further ahead of us in both their achievement and their targets for education and training.

● The author is Member of Parliament for Leeds Central and a Labour Front Bench spokesman on Education.



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Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, LEEDS, LS2 9JT, telephone 0532 333888 (quoting reference number 31/76). Applications (two copies) stating age, giving details of qualifications and experience, and naming three referees, should reach the Registrar not later than 29 April 1990. Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by telex (050473 UNLEDS G) or facsimile (0532 336077 or 0532 334123), naming three referees, preferably at least one in the United Kingdom.

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The School Council invites applications for the post of

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Details of the post, application forms, etc are available from: The Divisional Bursar (A), Woodard Schools, 14A The Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LN.

Tel: (0743) 56038.

Closing date for completed applications 27th March 1990.

OSWESTRY SCHOOL

OSWESTRY SHROPSHIRE

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APPOINTMENT OF

BURSAR

The Governors of Oswestry School invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governor commencing in August, 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Oswestry School is in three parts: Pre-Prep, Preparatory School and Senior School. It is co-educational, day and boarding and has 660 pupils overall. The School is in membership of IAPS and SEMIS.

The post offers considerable scope to a candidate with good organisational skills and financial expertise as well as energy and commitment.

Further details may be obtained on application in writing to: The Headmaster, Oswestry School, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry, Shropshire, ST11 2TL, to whom letters of application along with a full Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted not later than 21st March 1990.

LANCING COLLEGE

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Required for September 1990, an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher of DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY to participate in the planning of a new Design and Technology building, due to open in 1992, and in the introduction of new courses.

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Apply in own hand with CV, two referees and phone numbers (own and referees) to:

The Headmaster, Aiglon College

1885, Chemin de la Vallée, Châtelain

Tel: (0844) 25 35 27 21

Fax: (0844) 25 35 28 11

SELWYN COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Selwyn College Cambridge invites applications for a Trollope Research Fellowship (tenable from 1 October 1990 for 3 years). The successful candidate must have, or be completing, a PhD in Natural Sciences, Medical Sciences, Mathematics or Engineering. Further particulars are available from The Master's Secretary, Selwyn College, Cambridge, CB3 9QQ. The closing date for applications is 27 April, 1990.



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USE YOUR CREDIT CARD

Tax credits for US corporation

Unfair suspension of councillors

Union Texas Petroleum Corporation v Critchley (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment February 27]

The provisions of the double taxation relief treaty negotiated between the United States and the United Kingdom entitled a US corporation receiving dividends from its UK subsidiary to be paid by the Revenue sums referred to as "tax credits". The Revenue was, however, permitted to withhold an amount as a deduction from such payment. That deduction was to be calculated as 5 per cent of the aggregate of the amount of the dividend and tax credit after making allowance for the deduction.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Crown and a cross-appeal by a US corporation, Union Texas Petroleum Corporation, from the judgment of Mr Justice Harman (The Times September 9, 1988) STC 691 that the Revenue was not entitled to a special commissioner's order which ordered the Crown to pay £1.1 million to the corporation.

The corporation was a United States corporation, resident in the United Kingdom, that owned the issued share capital of an English company. Between 1981 and 1984 the company

made seven dividend payments to the corporation totalling £388.7 million. The advance corporation tax (ACT) that the company was required to pay under the provisions of Part V of the Finance Act 1972 in respect of those dividends amounted to some £163.2 million.

The corporation made claims for payment from the Revenue under article 10(2)(a)(i) of the Treaty scheduled to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) Order (SI 1980 No 568). Article 10(2)(a) provides: "In the case of dividends paid by a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom (i) to United States corporation which... controls, directly or indirectly, at least 10 per cent of the voting stock of the corporation which is a resident of the United Kingdom paying the dividend, the United States corporation shall be entitled to a payment from the United Kingdom of a tax credit equal to one-half of the tax credit to which the dividend is entitled as a resident of the United Kingdom...".

The corporation sought an order that the Revenue should pay it an additional amount of £22 million and interest, on the basis that the Revenue was not entitled to the special commissioner's order which ordered the Crown to pay £1.1 million to the corporation.

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Duty to trespasser in danger

White v St Albans City and District Council
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Bingham
[Judgment March 2]

Whether an occupier of land has a duty to take such steps as are reasonable to ensure that a trespasser might come into the vicinity of a danger on the land and was therefore under a duty to the trespasser was to be determined by considering the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury occurred.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by John Michael White against a decision of Judge Lovegrove, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who rejected his claim against St Albans City and District Council for damages for personal injuries sustained when he fell into a 12ft trench while walking across fenced-off council property while taking a short cut to a car park.

Section 1 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 provides: "(3) An occupier of premises owes a duty to another (b) the better or has reasonable grounds to

believe that the other... may come into the vicinity of the danger."

"(4) Where, by virtue of this section, an occupier of premises owes a duty to another in respect of a circumstance, it is to be taken that he does not suffer injury on the premises by reason of the danger concerned."

Mr Lawrence West for Mr White; Mr Arthur Stevenson for the Council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellant had argued that once it was established that precautions had been taken to stop people getting to the land on which there was a danger, it followed that the person taking the precautions had reason to believe someone was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger and paragraph (b) was fulfilled and a duty to the trespasser was established.

The effect was that the issue of how satisfactory the precautions were fell to be considered as a question of whether the duty was discharged under subsection (4).

His Lordship did not accept that interpretation. The ques-

tion for consideration under subsection (3)(b) had to be asked by looking at the actual state of affairs on the ground when the injury was met with and asking had the occupier reasonable grounds for believing someone would come into the vicinity of the danger?

In the instant case the accident occurred on private land surrounded by a fence. The judge had been wrong in holding that the council had no reason to believe that the appellant would be in the vicinity of the trench.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellant had argued that once it was established that precautions had been taken to stop people getting to the land on which there was a danger, it followed that the person taking the precautions had reason to believe someone was likely to come into the vicinity of the danger and paragraph (b) was fulfilled and a duty to the trespasser was established.

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3	Essex	Drugs/Stores	
4	Reverend	Industrial S-Z	
5	Mandarin (O)	Food	
6	BAT (a)	Tobacco	
7	Watson & Philip	Food	
8	Vindex	Industrial S-Z	
9	Meyer Int	Industrial S-Z	
10	AB Food (a)	Food	
11	McKenna	Industrial S-Z	
12	Mid	Industrial S-Z	
13	Radio Supply (a)	Industrial S-Z	
14	Jordan (Thames)	Industrial S-Z	
15	Permanor	Industrial S-Z	
16	Byrnes (Charles)	Industrial S-Z	
17	Memec	Industrial S-Z	
18	Smurfit (a)	Paper/Print/Adv	
19	Respac	Industrial S-Z	
20	Benzer PLC (a)	Industrial S-Z	
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22	Land	Industrial S-Z	
23	Fin Art Dev	Industrial S-Z	
24	Star Arrow (a)	Industrial S-Z	
25	Wicks	Industrial S-Z	
26	Wolenshank Risk	Industrial S-Z	
27	Pennell Elect	Industrial S-Z	
28	Leung Prop	Industrial S-Z	
29	Amec	Industrial S-Z	
30	Barclays (a)	Industrial S-Z	
31	Metal Closure	Industrial S-Z	
32	Evered	Industrial S-Z	
33	Hatma	Industrial S-Z	
34	Richard (Leica)	Industrial S-Z	
35	Johnston	Industrial S-Z	
36	Courmads (a)	Industrial S-Z	
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1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

UNDATED

1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

INDEX-LINKED

1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end March 23. Settlement day April 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00%	10.00

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00%	10.00

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00%	10.00

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Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00%	10.00

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Rank	Company	Prc 12/31/88	Chg 12/31/88	52 Wks High	52 Wks Low	Dv 12/31/88
OVERSEAS TRADERS						
73	Ward	570	-10	227	40	28
74	Ward	570	-10	227	40	28
75	Chalenger	112	83	119	79	48
76	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
77	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
78	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
79	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
80	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
81	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
82	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
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85	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
86	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
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92	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
93	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
94	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
95	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
96	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
97	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
98	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
99	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
100	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
PROPERTY						
101	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
102	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
103	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
104	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
105	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
106	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
107	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
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194	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
195	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
196	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
197	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
198	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
199	Ward	112	83	119	79	48
200	Ward	112	83	119	79	48

Suez's favourite child hopes to create a Turkish delight

After taking control of Gartmore to give Banque Suez funds of almost £14.5bn, Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani has moved closer to his dream of running a leading international banking group, reports Neil Bennett

Sipping black coffee amidst the minarets of Istanbul, Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani has good reason to feel pleased with his week's work.

He has opened Eurobank, Banque Indosuez's joint foray with Générale de Banque into the promising Turkish corporate banking market. He even found time for high level diplomacy with Mr Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey.

At the other end of Europe, his staff were completing the details of the bank's venture into the asset management business by buying Gartmore, giving Banque Indosuez funds of almost £14.5 billion worldwide.

M Jeancourt-Galignani, aged 53, dreams of running a dominant international banking group, and the past seven days have carried him two strides towards his ambition. It is hard not to be impressed by M Jeancourt-Galignani on a first meeting.

In an industry filled with bluster and flannel, he is refreshingly direct and enthusiastic about his plans for Indosuez.

Although he appears auto-

cratic, even proprietorial, in his control of Indosuez, the business is run like a partnership, according to senior colleagues, with decisions taken by an inner cabinet every Friday morning.

Not everyone shares his staff's admiration for him. Rival bankers describe him as being "wily", or worse, and his aggressive pursuit of a chosen acquisition target has made him a number of enemies.

Behind the façade of clubbable banker lies raw aggression and single-minded determination.

The chairman of Indosuez was never born to be a banker. His family run the Galignani bookshop on the Rue de Rivoli in Paris.

After school in France and England, he chose to master economics at Paris. From there, he enrolled in the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the leading French business school.

On graduation, M Jeancourt-Galignani received the top honour of being enrolled as an *Inspecteur des Finances*, one of a select group of French businessmen, which includes



A view of success: Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani in Turkey

M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president. The award was enough to propel him into government, where, aged 31, he became an assistant secretary to the minister of finance.

In 1972, his promising political career hit a brick wall. The French treasury department sent him to its New York office. His dislike for the

job was so intense, he lasted barely a month. He decided to detach himself completely from the cosy French establishment and joined Chase Manhattan Bank, where he discovered the harsh competitive realities of commercial banking.

Such a switch has become more common for upwardly-mobile public employees in

France. At that time, it was almost unheard of.

A year later, M Jeancourt-Galignani returned to France as senior and subsequently executive vice-president of Crédit Agricole, the agricultural bank owned by the government.

In 1979, he took the top job at Indosuez, then still a small merchant bank. The fact that he stayed at its helm from its nationalization in 1982 to its privatization five years later is a tribute to his skill.

The socialist administration refused to remove him even though he is an open supporter of M Raymond Barre and the UDF liberal party.

During his 11 years at Indosuez, M Jeancourt-Galignani has gained an unshakeable hold on the bank.

He may not be the heir apparent to the chair of Groupe Suez, the bank's parent, but he is certainly the favourite child. He is the only executive manager on the group's main board.

He can be confident that he has the huge resources of Groupe Suez at his disposal to fund his rapid expansion programme.

With shareholders' funds of £110 billion (£1.06 billion), the bank is still dwarfed by the likes of BNP and Crédit Lyonnais, yet it is growing at a speed that should embarrass its state-owned seniors.

With suggestions that Indosuez will now look to the United States for acquisitions, the banking world is waiting to see what M Jeancourt-Galignani will come up with.

BTR about to taste the £1bn profit club's exclusive atmosphere

Strong organic growth, enhanced by acquisitions and improved margins, will ensure that BTR, the industrial conglomerate, joins the £1 billion club when Sir Owen Green, the chairman, reports on Thursday.

BTR, which has diversified but high-quality operations, makes about 60 per cent of its earnings overseas. Full-year pre-tax profits are expected to climb by 33 per cent to £1.09 billion, according to Nomura Research Institute, with market forecasts ranging from £1.06 billion to £1.12 billion.

TODAY

Interim: Cornwell Parker, High Point, MAI, Unigrip. Finance: Alliance Trust, Assoc (ESP), British Vint, Eilers, Emmer, Holsen Publishing, Liffelsh, Low & Bonar, Lowe Group, Merchants Trust, Penndragon, Perkins Foods, PLANT, PMA group, Richardson Westgate, Robinson Brothers (Ryderson Green), Sale Tinsley, Suter, Transport Development Group, USDC Investment Trust.

TOMORROW

Analysts expect Glywedd International, the Midlands industrial group, to report an 11.5 per cent increase in final taxable profits to £92 million, although earnings per share are only expected to improve by about 1p to 2p.

George Wimpey, Britain's second largest housebuilder, headed by Sir Clifford Chetwood, is expected to report static profits because of its high exposure to the market. Country NatWest expects final taxable profits of £145 million (£144.5 million). Forecasts range from £140 million to £158 million.

Interim: Atwoods, BM Group, Community Hospitals Group, Ears Food, Logica, Precious Metals Trust, Tay Homes. Finance: Canover Investments, Doe, Ferrar, Holdings, Glywedd International, Harmony Gold Mining, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Karon Group, Lancashire, PMA Group, Simon Engineering, Trade Indemnity, George Wimpey.

WEDNESDAY

British Aerospace, the aerospace, motors and industrial conglomerate headed by Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and Sir Raymond Lygo, the chief executive, has been plagued by strike problems, the payment terms for Rover, the changing outlook for defence sales and the disruption of the Airbus pro-



Green: good organic growth

gramme. Its figures will include the first full-year contribution from Rover, helping turnover to expand from £5.6 billion to an estimated £8.3 billion.

County NatWest WoodMac expects pre-tax profits to advance to £329 million for the full year, compared with £236 million last time. This includes the proceeds from the sale of Intel and Leyland DAF, with profits estimated at about £28 million.

A good recovery in British poultry and eggs will benefit Hillsdown, Mr Harry Solomon's food-to-furniture group. The healthy improvements in the profitability of the food operations and about £20 million in trading profits from Premier Brands should offset the difficult conditions being faced by the furniture and housebuilding operations.

Smith New Court is looking for final pre-tax profits of £195 million, against £151 million, with forecasts ranging from £194 million to £200 million.

Interim: Beazer, Merivale Moore, Pochina. Finance: Abbott Mead Vickers, Allied Insurance Brokers Group, American Trust, British Aerospace, BTR, Christie International, Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, First Earth Times, Hillsdown Holdings, Kleinwort Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Lambert Howard Group, North Midland Construction, T&L, Wickes.

THURSDAY

A combination of significantly increased production — to about 98,000 barrels per day (70,000 bpd) — and an oil price which was an average 30 per cent higher in sterling terms should ensure a good set of results from Enterprise Oil, Britain's largest independent oil company.

Nomura has pencilled in net income of £118 million for the

full year, compared with £73.4 million, with market expectations ranging from £115 million to £122 million. Enterprise, which has a net cash balance of about £150 million, is expected to make a positive statement on this year's drilling.

Glaxo Holdings, the pharmaceutical group chaired by Sir Paul Groom, should report underlying revenue growth of 18 per cent, boosted to 29 per cent by a strong dollar and European currencies.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd is expecting interim pre-tax profits to climb from £460 million to £549 million, while analysts' forecasts range from £510 million to £570 million.

Legal & General's British life and pensions profits should benefit from better business. Full-year profits are expected to rise from £142.6 million to £152 million, according to Kleinwort Benson Research.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker, will have a first-time contribution from NEI and higher aero-engine turnover, although the disputes will affect profits. County NatWest WoodMac has pencilled in final pre-tax profits up 25 per cent at £211 million. Forecasts range from £210 million to £240 million.

United Biscuits, Sir Hector Laing's food group, should be helped by improved margins at Keebler, its US subsidiary, despite reports of increased competition in snacks. Smith New Court has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £188 million (£170.2 million).

Interim: Calor Group (third quarter), Close Brothers, Concorde Syndicates, EFM Dragon Trust, European Leisure, Glaxo Holdings, GR (Holdings), Minorco, Tweston United Collieries, Wolsley, Zambia Copper Investments. Finance: Associated British Ports Holdings, Associated-Henriques, BBA Group, Brader Properties, Church, Clarke (J), Davies & Metcalfe, Delta, Dukemans Group, Enterprise Oil, Ericsson (LM), Hall Engineering (Holdings), Hewitt (J) & Son (Penton), Jacob (W&P), Jacobs John, Kleinwort Benson Group, Legal & General, Lix Service, Northern Engineering Industries, Quorn, Ranown Inc, Rolls-Royce, Try Group, United Biscuits (Holdings), Wolstantons Rink.

Interim: Sirdar, Walker (Thomas), Finlay, Automated Security (Holdings), Gaskell.

Philip Pangalos

Growing gap in prosperity perceptions

US NOTEBOOK

Since the beginning of 1990 asset prices worldwide have been tumbling. Bond prices have fallen in America but even faster in West Germany and Japan.

Property prices are falling the world over. The US property bubble is spreading from the worst areas in the Northeast to the last hold-out of high property prices — California.

Junk bond prices have sunk in America. Japanese share prices have dropped 14 per cent. Currencies are falling. The yen is off more than 3 per cent on the dollar since January 2. And now sterling is in trouble, falling from \$1.71 to \$1.62 in the past two weeks.

But while asset prices are

falling, regular price inflation is accelerating. In America, we do not talk about the Consumer Price Index or the Producer Price Index — their latest reports have been horrendous. But consider the Commodity Research Bureau Index of commodity futures prices. This index has jolted observers with a rise from 229 on January 2 to 238 on March 9 — up 4 per cent.

A particularly unsettling trend has been the revival in the price of copper. This bellweather metal hit a low of 96 cents in late January. Now copper is \$1.21. This is a key

indicator telling us the industrial expansion has resumed. Worldwide inflation is accelerating.

US employment figures have stifled all talk of economic weakness. Payroll employment in the eight weeks to February rose 350,000 a month, up 64 per cent from the monthly average increment in the previous year.

The US yield curve, which went positive in the second half of 1989, has started to turn back to negative, with two-year yields exceeding 30-year yields.

These stresses and strains

are characteristic of the climatic phase of a long expansion. But no one in the US bond market will believe this expansion is close to ending. They are being hurt too much by the strong economic numbers to take any notice.

Retail sales of non-durable goods in America are reasonable. Cars are still weak, as are other durables. Americans are controlling their consumption. Personal savings rose 130 per cent between 1987 and January 1990. They will only buy a car on a price cut. Nor are new home sales good: they fell 5 per cent from a year earlier in January.

So far, the employment surge has not led to an ac-

celeration in the growth of hourly earnings. In February, these were up 3.7 per cent on a year ago — the kind of growth seen in 1988 and 1989.

So everyone has a job and can find a job. Unemployment is a low 5.3 per cent; wages growth is not rising.

But ordinary folk are not spending their wages; they are saving. They are behaving as if they do not believe the prosperity indicated by the employment numbers will last.

The employment numbers tell us everyone must be very prosperous; not too many people are acting as if they are.

Maxwell Newton

New York

USM REVIEW

Secret knowledge about washing machines puts cash in Domestic's bank

If ever you want to know what brand of washing machine, television, vacuum cleaner or cooker to buy, ask Mr Martin Copley, the chairman of Domestic & General, an insurance underwriter which specialises in insuring domestic appliances against breakdown.

But you may not get a direct answer. For the ever-so-discreet Mr Copley, who knows more than *Which?* magazine about which are the most reliable domestic appliances, makes a point of only disclosing such useful information to his clients, the companies that manufacture and sell such goods.

Mr Copley can trace the origins of Domestic & General back to Copley's Bank, a private bank founded in 1916 by his grandfather Mr Sam Copley — a one-time baron from Huddersfield, who made his fortune in Australia.

"In 1978 I used my stake in the family business to buy out its insurance subsidiary, Western Australian Insurance Company, also started by my grandfather, and when we then bought Domestic & General we changed the name because it sounded better for the UK market," says Mr Copley.

The family banking business was sold to Rea Brothers, the merchant bank, for about £1 million in the late 1970s and, in the summer of last year, sold back to Domestic & General for £2 million.

Flashed on the USM in 1988, Domestic & General has almost doubled its capitalization to £21 million.

Last week, it unveiled pre-tax profits of £2.39 million, up from £1.34 million. Earnings per share rose from 4.9p to 21.5p and Laing & Crutchfield,



Copley: glad of high interest rates

broker to the company, has increased its profits forecast for 1990 to £3.1 million, and published a buy note.

Messrs Andrew Crean and Jonathan Sheehan, Laing & Crutchfield analysts, argue that because the company is a specialist underwriter its market "is well protected from the intense competition seen in other lines of non-life insurance." They also point out that it is benefiting from high interest rates. Premiums for five-year repair contracts are received in advance. "We've got about £17 million on deposit at the moment," says Mr Copley, whose family speaks for 58 per cent of the equity. "High interest rates are very good news for us, indeed."

Carol Leonard

Seacon sails into new list

Third Market-quoted Seacon Holdings, a specialist shipping and transportation group, has become the first company to graduate to the USM after the European Commission's directive on listing requirements, which, effectively, sends the death knell for the junior markets in their present form.

The strategy behind the EC directive, which came into force last month, was to bring into line the listing requirements of various companies throughout Europe.

Under the proposals, the trading cord for companies seeking admission to the USM is reduced from three years to two, and the requirement to publish information relating to acquisitions is relaxed, as are regulations on the valuation of assets by USM companies. The directive also means that, by the end of this year, the Third Market will be a thing of the past. Those companies on it will migrate to the USM.

Seacon closed on Friday at 137p. The up was introduced to the Third Market back in 1987, and, within months, had spent £562,000 on the almost

bankrupt Milford Docks. The move was a gamble, with the City worried that Milford would absorb all of Seacon's profits. Within a short space of time, however, Seacon had showed that it had stemmed the flow of losses at Milford by reporting pre-tax profits of £425,000.

Traditionally, Seacon had specialised in European shipping. However, the acquisition of Milford Docks enabled it to expand into the deep-sea intercontinental trade following the opening of its new deep-water cargo handling terminal at Northfleet on the Thames. This can handle vessels of up to 40,000 tonnes and boasts the deepest berths apart from those at Tilbury.

Last month, Seacon completed the sale of Milford Docks, raising £6.2 million, a move coinciding with the publication of its 1989 report and accounts. These showed a 45 per cent increase in operating profits to £2.16 million, which, after stripping out an exceptional charge of £682,000, left pre-tax profits 10 per cent higher at £1.5 million.

Michael Clark

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	P	C	V	P	C	V	P	C	V	P	C	V	P	C	V
22.00 A&O	1.0	0.1	10	22.00 A&O	1.0	0.1	10	22.00 A&O	1.0	0.1	10	22.00 A&O	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10	15.00 AT&T	1.0	0.1	10
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ECONOMIC VIEW

Why Major must keep his tax reform nerve

Another week and another fall in the pound. That is what we saw in the past seven days and what may be in prospect again this week. It is all very disruptive to John Major's plans for next week's Budget, but Mr Major is no stranger to temporary fluctuations in the exchange rate.

He arrived at Number 11 in the middle of a political crisis and saw the pound fall 4½ per cent during the next few months. During that time he held his nerve, continuing to attribute sterling's weakness to temporary political uncertainties as Mrs Thatcher weathered the leadership challenge and the shock waves from Mr Lawson's resignation gradually died away. He was rewarded by a gradual recovery in the currency to just above the level at which the previous Chancellor resigned before it fell almost immediately under the impact of the present state of selling.

While the political fortunes of the Government remain as rocky as they are now, there are limits to how far the pound is likely to recover. This week has several statistical hurdles to be negotiated, including retail sales, average earnings and on Friday the public sector debt repayment. But while he should certainly heed the underlying condition of the currency, Mr Major's task is to take the medium-term view and let the day-to-day squalls in the foreign exchange market blow themselves out.

The Chancellor also has certain negative responsibilities in framing his Budget, as well as positive duties. Principal among them is the need to conserve the progress on tax reform made under Mr Lawson.

Tax reform involves not only careful economic analysis but also a delicate

balancing of political forces. Over time the political lobbies have an opportunity to launch counter-attacks. This is happening on a grand scale both in the US and Japan, where far-reaching tax reforms introduced by previous administrations are steadily being unpicked. In the US, the capital gains tax proposals introduced under Mr Reagan are being softened under President Bush to mollify a vocal group of supporters. In Japan, the widely disliked sales tax is being progressively neutered with changes due next month so that the switch in emphasis from taxes on income to taxes on spending may end up being more of an aspiration than a reality.

Mr Major must be on his guard against the erosion of progress towards a level playing field made by Mr Lawson. The CBI's call for investment allowances for industry would be a clear step back from the principle of fewer allowances and lower rates which has guided the present Government's policy so far. Likewise, the institutional savings lobbies will be eager to rebuild the privileges reduced over the past few years. A rise in the ceiling for mortgage tax relief would be particularly bizarre when the main existing tax on property — the rates — is about to be replaced by the poll tax.

The biggest trap of all is the poll tax itself. Right or wrong in principle, the Government must now make the best of it. Ministers have already mortgaged a great deal of tax revenue to ameliorating the most painful effects of the tax, without any discernible political benefit. If they are now to spend a whole lot more, they may sacrifice the chance of cutting taxes in an election year to fighting a rearguard action on the poll tax, which they can never win.

Japan under G7 pressure

The decision to hold a ministerial meeting of the Group of Seven industrial countries in Paris on April 7, just one month before the regular meeting in Washington, is a little puzzling. The meeting's agenda is likely to centre on economic co-ordination and Eastern Europe. But at least one leading participant, US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, has said he sees no immediate need for discussions on economic co-ordination or events in currency markets. Nor is it very obvious what responsibilities most of the G7 nations, apart from West Germany, have towards Eastern Europe.

The main tension between the leading countries is the desire of the US and Germany to persuade Japan to raise its interest rates. Yen weakness is potentially inflationary and could threaten Japan's progress towards current account balance, but neither the US nor Germany is prepared to bring down its

own interest rates, which both believe would risk domestic inflation. What they hope to persuade Japan is that in today's global markets the Japanese must be prepared to move their rates more often. For its part, the Japanese government wants some assurance that if it were to move, it would not be immediately trumped by an increase in Germany.

These matters are more likely to be sorted out at a meeting of the "G3" — the US, Japan and Germany — or two meetings of G2, rather than in the wider forum of G7. The April G7 meeting perhaps has more to do with the fact that the relevant personnel will be gathered in Paris anyway to launch the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development than with any useful work they can do.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Depository site taken off the market



From £100 million to £40 million: The 10-acre Harrods Depository with planning consent for 300 residential apartments

Property slide hits Harrods

By Matthew Bond

House of Fraser has run into difficulties with its plans to make large-scale property disposals, the proceeds of which would bring down the group's heavy borrowings.

The company, owned by the Fayed brothers, has long-term plans to dispose of both the Harrods Depository, the riverside landmark next to Hamersmith Bridge in west London, and the Harrodsian sports club, less than half a mile away in Barnes.

Until recently the sale of these properties looked to offer the brothers the chance to recover a substantial part of the £625 million they spent on acquiring the Harrods group. Both properties were quietly offered for sale by Savills, the property agent, last year.

The 10-acre depository site,



Up for sale at £6.5 million an acre: The 20-acre Harrodsian sports club in metropolitan open land could be a speculative buy

with its planning consent for up to 300 apartments, has long been coveted by developers. The site is vacant, after the £25 million development of a new warehouse at Osterley.

But the collapse in the London residential market had the effect of slashing the expected price from about £10 million an acre to a guide price of £40 million for the entire site, or £4 million an acre.

The depository, has now been withdrawn from sale.

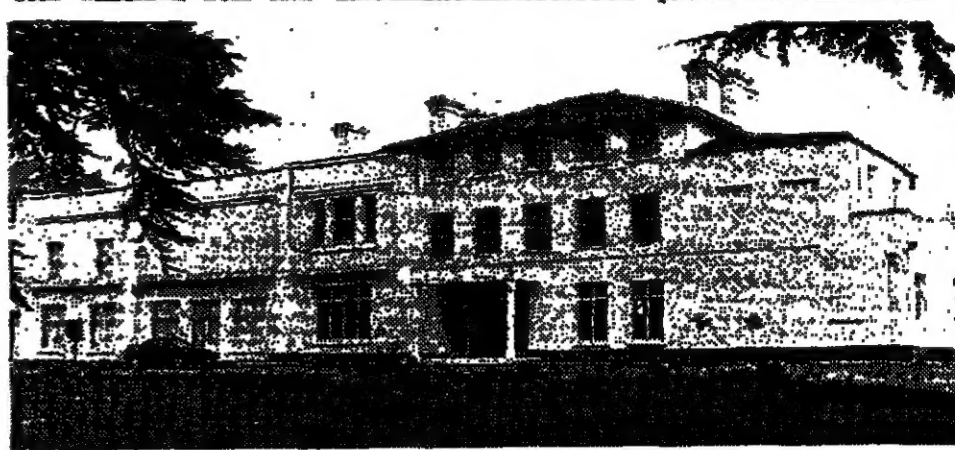
Next door to it is the 130-acre Barn Elms reservoir site owned by Thames Water. When the new London ring main is completed in 1992, this site becomes redundant.

The possibility of it being developed has provoked a storm of protest, although Thames Water is only likely to seek planning permission for a part of the site, leaving the rest as a nature reserve.

The planning authorities have insisted that the two sites

share the same access route. House of Fraser will now wait for Thames Water to resolve its planning difficulties before pushing ahead with the sale.

The 20-acre Harrodsian sports ground remains for sale. It is surrounded on three sides by leafy, quality homes, but is zoned metropolitan open land and would be regarded as a speculative purchase. So far, it has failed to attract an offer at the guide price of £6.5 million an acre.



Hartwell win over Jameel in doubt

By Martin Waller

The Jameel Group, the Saudi Arabian concern, looks likely to fall short of its 50 per cent target in its plan to take over Hartwell, the Oxford motor distributor, when the bid closes at 1 pm today.

So far, Jameel has reached almost 37 per cent in a share-buying spree that started from a 22 per cent stake on the day of the bid. If the bid fails, the Saudis will have been shut out by a powerful combination of four big institutional shareholders and Hartwell's own pension fund.

But the Hartwell camp cannot rely on victory. There were late negotiations taking place with the institutions, who were mostly waiting until today to make up their minds, and at least one big shareholding is believed to have been offered to Jameel if it can show this would mean victory.

The Hartwell pension fund has 10.3 per cent and directors and their families another 3.4 per cent. The four big institutions are Pearl Assurance, with 6.4 per cent, the Prudential with 5.9 per cent, the Prudential with 3.4 per cent and Mercantile Credit with 6.8 per cent.

Private shareholders therefore have up to 25 per cent and many are local and fiercely loyal to Hartwell. If the bid fails, Hartwell will point to the judgement of the market-place as evidence that the Jameels should cease to assail them.

But the Saudis are more likely to use their large minority holding to put pressure on the company. They already have a majority of the convertible shares, whose gradual conversion will strengthen their hold, and they will continue to buy the 2 per cent a year they are allowed to purchase in the market.

Elders debt cut to Aus\$1 bn

Sydney (Reuters) — Mr John Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, said the group's debt had been reduced by about Aus\$900 million (£422.5 million) to Aus\$1 billion in recent months.

On Thursday, Elders announced a restructuring to turn the conglomerate into a single-focus brewer called Foster's Brewing Group, float off its agribusiness, and sell a further Aus\$2.5 billion of peripheral assets.

In a television interview yesterday, Mr Elliott said Elders plans to release a com-

pleted balance sheet when its proposed public houses-for-breweries swap with Grand Metropolitan is finalized.

"We will be able to show a balance sheet in the next couple of weeks which will show that the Foster's Brewing company will still be very strong and will have a one-to-one gearing ratio and between three- and four-times interest cover," he said.

He added that the debt of Hartin Holdings, a firm owned by Mr Elliott and other Elders executives, which has 55.8 per cent of Elders, will be

cut to Aus\$1.3 billion from Aus\$1.9 billion, via Elders' proposed Aus\$1 per share capital return, funded by asset sales.

On the same programme, Mr Duncan Andrews, a director of Australian Ratings, said Elders "still has a long way to go" before the credit rating agency will change its rating.

"We'd like to see some more runs on the board before we look at the ratings," he said.

Last September, Australian Ratings cut Elders' credit rating to BB from A minus.

Ridley faces questions over convicted broker

Mr Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, is taking up the case of constituents who have lost money in broker bonds managed by Adrian Ward, a convicted diamond smuggler.

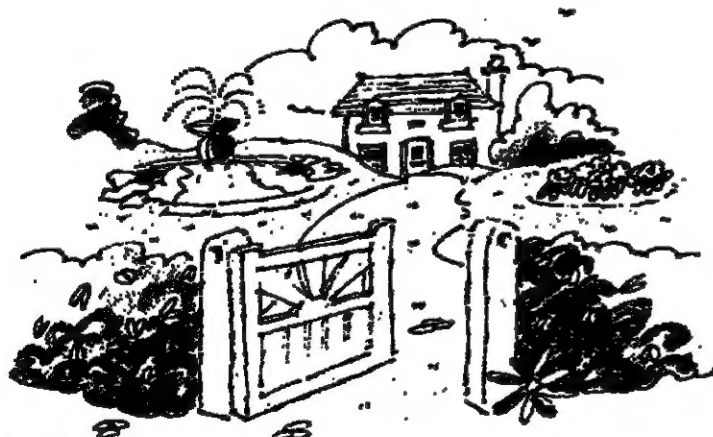
He has tabled a question for Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, inviting the Securities and Investments Board and the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Association to explain why Ward was allowed to trade as an interim authorized finan-

cial adviser for two years. It is believed that the regulators were told about the conviction, but allowed him to continue trading instead of issuing a suspension order to protect the interests of investors.

Ward and Money Management Financial Services of Wickford, Essex, his company, were finally put out of business last month after his application to join Fimbra, made two years previously, was turned down.

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Berisford talks 'are likely to take weeks'

Negotiations following the approach to Berisford International, parent of British Sugar, are likely to take weeks, sources close to the group said yesterday, describing the approach as "tentative".

It is understood the Take-over Panel and Stock Exchange would have been happy if no announcement had been made. One was made by the company's financial adviser because the shares were rising. Several groups have shown an interest in owning the British Sugar divisions.

Receiver goes in at Lockton

By Philip Pangalos

Lockton Shops, the troubled hi-fi and video retailer chain which was set up under the Business Expansion Scheme in the spring of 1987, has called in the receiver after losing more than £5 million.

Many of the 1,400 shareholders in Lockton, which had funds of £9.34 million at launch, had called two extraordinary meetings — one to be held today and one on Friday — to discuss the company's proposed sale of its last substantial asset, a freehold

property in Brentwood, Essex, for £1.1 million.

Mr Peter Dunn, a senior partner of Latham Crossley & Davis, the receiver, said: "The crash is due to difficulties in this particular retail sector, plus very high start-up costs and an unproven retail formula. I am putting up the seven retailing units for sale as a going concern and expect a high return to the creditors."

Lockton, owned and managed retail outlets under two names, Wires and Auditions.

However, high interest rates, slower spending and the high cost of retail shop leases contributed to the failure.

Lockton had a turnover of about £6 million and about 50 staff at seven shops. To April last, it incurred losses of £1.5 million, which grew by £2.5 million in the 44-week period to February 3. The group also wrote off £3.6 million as "extraordinary items".

However, Mr Dunn said: "I am still confident of selling the company as a going concern."

Locketts goes Green's

City wine merchant-turned-restaurantier Simon Parker-Bowles, who runs Green's, in Duke Street, St James's — a favourite eatery of the Princess of Wales and British Airways chairman Lord King as well as the Greenhouse champagne bar by the Royal Exchange — will be opening the doors of his latest establishment, Green's Westminster, on Budget Day — March 20.

On the site of Locketts restaurant, in Marsham Street, a famed but faded haunt of Parliamentarians, the menu will feature cabinet pudding, to celebrate the occasion. And supervising such culinary delights will be head chef and director Beth Coventry, sister of Evening Standard restaurant critic Fay Maschler. Coventry, more usually found in the kitchens in Duke Street, will be rolling up her sleeves and cooking, rather than supervising at arms' length. "I shall be there for many weeks, and running backwards and forwards to Duke Street as well, just to make sure both are going okay," she says. Coventry originally joined Green's as Parker-Bowles' secretary, but has considerable experience of the trade. She was previously PA to the late Peter Langan, and helped him set up his West End brasserie. Some of the old Locketts faces will still be working there, but the interior will not be recognizable. Having paid THF £500,000 for the premises, a similar sum has been spent on refurbishment.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Low profile preferred

A retired Royal Navy commander of Sidmouth, Devon, writes to tell me he owns a car with the number plate F-AYD. "As a Loughborough I am naturally anxious to dispense of this registration," he says. Asked whether the Fayed would be interested in buying it from him, their spokesman Michael Cole, an ex-BBC royal correspondent, answers my query by saying: "Mr Al-Fayed is not a showy person, he is a very modest

man and he has no interest in personalized number plates. He has many cars but provided they work and are clean and well polished he has no real interest in them." In an aside, Cole then added that his boss had bought no fewer than 50 vintage Rolls-Royce, Bentley and Jaguar cars, at auctions here and in France, during the past year, to stock Harrods Motors, a business that is now undergoing a revival.

One-arm Baltic

Glasnost is reaching as far as the amusement arcade industry. International Gaming Management of Minneapolis has signed a contract with Soviet/American Trade Consultants (Satco) to provide video poker and slot machines

for the Viru Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia. The Estonians are taking 32 machines expected to generate up to \$1 million over three years. Under the agreement, the local government will receive 50 per cent of the proceeds from the equipment, with Satco and International Gaming 25 per cent each. The equipment is due to be installed in May.

Ahoy mates

The ultimate capitalist, Virgin boss Richard Branson, is planning a voyage into the Eastern bloc. He is seeking a Moscow location, he told a Los Angeles press conference. Skating over the fact that, for a short time, Virgin was a public company, he described it as "the last of the independents," and then let slip he had turned down \$1 billion for the record business by a public competitor.



Weight is not all

The DTI report into the House of Fraser affair, which runs to 752 pages, plus another 12 for the index, may be the heaviest to have landed on City desks for some time — but even at an overall cost of £1.5 million it is, I am informed, not the most expensive. The DTI declines to break down the fees due solely to the inspectors — two are always appointed, one a QC and the other an accountant — and says that the £1.5 million figure includes all support staff. The record of the DTI's costliest report to date is still — but only just — held by the 1986 inquiry into Guinness which, at the last count, had notched up expenses of £1.66 million. And that, the DTI points out, is only for an interim report, since the final Guinness report will not see the light of day until all criminal proceedings are out of the way. But given that the HOF was on sale in HMSO outlets at £4.5 a time, if they can somehow manage to sell a little over 33,000 copies — several hundred have already been snapped up by Lough — they can recoup much of their expenditure. Perhaps they should consider adding a few pictures to make it more popular reading.

John White, a seasoned market-maker with ANZ Securities until it pulled out of the British market at the end of last year, will be returning to the City next week as a senior dealer at Phillips & Drew Fund Management.

Carol Leonard

TEMPUS

BAA tames ADT, its awkward passenger

Michael Ashcroft seems to have met his match in the shape of Sir Norman Payne, chairman of BAA. Mr Ashcroft's ADT, the Bermuda-based security and car auction group, promises to explain this month the strategy behind its 8.2 per cent stake in BAA.

So far, the game is even, with Mr Ashcroft sitting on perhaps \$20 million of paper profits and Sir Norman brandishing Government assurances that BAA's golden share remains intact. Time, however, is on Sir Norman's side. If BAA shares remain static, ADT's paper profits could be cut in a year by the \$230 million carrying costs.

If ADT fails to persuade investors that BAA's riches can be unlocked quickly, BAA shares will suffer, taking ADT's profit with them.

Ahead lies a clash of wills between Sir Norman, a long-term strategist, and Mr Ashcroft, who has more pressing deadlines. ADT may decide to convene an extraordinary meeting to press for board changes or even seek a change to the company's articles, including the 15 per cent limit on individual shareholdings. Mr Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, who sees BAA as quite different from Jaguar, can, however, veto such a change.

Mr Ashcroft's best line might be to devise means of enhancing shareholder value

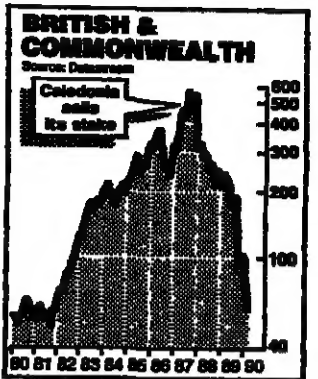
and persuade other investors to back them. BAA, like BAT, might then feel the need to act. A property revaluation might lift assets per share to about \$60p and some analysts see value of up to 500p a share. But BAA has the Lynton property group in-house for property expertise, and whether ADT can boost growth is yet to be proved.

BAA shares are up on 11 times earnings for the year just ended. They are excellent long-term value at their current 394p, but setbacks for ADT would hit them short-term. Watch for buying opportunities.

Caledonia

Investments

News that British & Commonwealth has sold its



Gartmore fund management business to Banque Indosuez did little for its shares. At 57p they are down to the level at which they were trading at the start of the Eighties, having once touched 570p.

If the dedicated followers of financial fashion at B&C burnt their fingers — and lost their shareholders hundreds of millions in the process — the whole episode is a testament to the wisdom of old money.

No one has demonstrated that more than members of the Cayzer family, who shifted the bulk of their shipping wealth into B&C in the Fifties and whopped it out in June 1987, one month before B&C's share price peaked. The switch left the Cayzers' other vehicle, Caledonia Investments, with \$427 million in cash and high-yielding preference shares in B&C.

As a result, Caledonia's shares did not follow B&C's down and remained among the best performers of the 1980s. Unfortunately, that does not guarantee that Caledonia will be an exciting vehicle in the 1990s. After all, why buy shares yielding 4 per cent in a family-controlled company when the bulk of its assets are held in cash or fixed-interest securities?

One answer is that it takes time for the conservative investments favoured by Caledonia to prove their worth. A



Pointing to a long-term view: Sir Norman Payne, BAA, is set for a clash of wills with ADT

6 per cent holding in Christie's, the art auctioneer, has doubled in value since it was disclosed 15 months ago, but that is not entirely typical.

Besides, at 352p, the shares stand at almost a third below net asset value of about 535p. Investors able to take the long view should do so, and pick up Caledonia on the market's weaker days.

Compass

It is some years since a company has managed, in the course of a takeover bid, to paint itself into as difficult a corner as that from which the

board of Sketchley now surveys its limited options.

While the board — minus Mr Malcolm Glenn, the chairman, after he was ritually sacrificed last week — lacks credibility and has little influence in the company's future, it continues to negotiate with Compass Group, the latest bidder, in an attempt to raise the terms on offer. The market is giving it some chance of success; at Friday's close, its shares were at 277p, against the 265p or £96 million on

offer under the Compass four-for-five shares offer.

The bid, nakedly opportunistic, is Compass's most ambitious move since its market flotation in December 1988.

The float was a flop, attracting applications for 68 per cent at the offer price of 245p. But the shares have made steady progress and management has attracted a strong City following.

Before the 35p slump associated with the Sketchley offer the shares were selling on almost 13 times prospective earnings, assuming pre-tax profits of £29.5 million in the current year to end-September.

The Compass management has shown the kind of skills needed to run a widely spread service business such as Sketchley.

Just 30 per cent of Sketchley's profits come from its 500 laundries and heel bars. As important is its linen and workwear rental operation, which would dovetail neatly with Compass's healthcare business, whose contract for textile rentals would be worth some £18 million a year to Sketchley.

Compass is not going to overpay. Sketchley, having rejected an approach worth at the last count £127 million, now has the embarrassing task of seeing just how close to that figure it can tempt the latest bidder.

P&D lifts Blue Arrow payments

By George Sivell

Large institutional investors are forcing UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, to pay more compensation over the disastrous £837 million Blue Arrow cash call.

The institutions, represented through the revived Institutional Shareholders' Committee, were offered by County NatWest, the merchant bank, a half-share of £88 million, based on 40p a share for 220 million Blue Arrow shares placed after the failure of the cash call.

Phillips & Drew at first hesitated over paying any compensation before the trials of 11 Phillips & Drew and County NatWest employees facing criminal charges over the rights issue, believing settling would be prejudicial to the court cases.

However, after pressure, the broker offered to pay 25 per cent, and then 40 per cent of the compensation package. Now, threat of withdrawals of business by large investors has forced it to consider paying the full £44 million half-share of the compensation.

Clayhithe deal

Clayhithe, the investment and property group, has bought a 70 per cent stake in Magna-power Group for £525,000, with the remaining 30 per cent held by the existing management. Clayhithe has an option to buy a further 10 per cent.

GILT-EDGED

Bizarre monetary behaviour may lead to 13% yields

The Treasury is teasing us. It pretends to be the prodigal son — returning repentant to the path of virtue — but, as soon as we accept its assurances, it reverts to its earlier hedonistic ways. Whenever we begin to forecast the implications of more sensible credit policies, the authorities turn the money taps back on and drink themselves into a stupor.

Chancellor Major, no less than his predecessor, has vacillated between monetary excess and moderation. His early weeks in the job, when credit was pushing extravagantly, could be explained by reference to the situation mess he had inherited.

It was only when the implications of the headily expansive policy finally began to penetrate official thinking — the Ford pay settlement may have been the key — that a change was implemented.

Money was contained, not through the price mechanism afforded by base rates, but by action in the gilt market. Reverse auctions were cancelled, and the negative borrowing requirement was allowed to eat into the asset base of the commercial banks. The resulting credit squeeze raised other interest rates — notably bond yields and the cost of mortgages — and lifted sterling.

What it probably also did was to slow the growth of the economy. Still fast last autumn (possibly as high as 4.5 per cent), it may have slowed to about 3 per cent. The trade figures, reliable indicators of internal demand, are consistent with such moderation.

This all seemed to be in line with official pronouncements emphasizing that containing inflation was the Government's top priority. It implied that monetary austerity would be the key, and that only when activity was more balanced, with pay settlements close to the international norm, would

the brakes come off. It suggested a difficult near-term future for gilts, but a better one in the second half of 1990 and throughout 1991.

But now all the indications are that the recidivist authorities have turned yet again to their old ways. Sterling has been falling like a stone and consumer credit has also picked up.

What can the authorities be playing at? Are they not aware that they thereby risk double-digit inflation in the year before a General Election?

What we can probably reject out of hand, though, is the thesis that they are scared of imminent recession. On the contrary, a short, sharp economic shock would be desirable.

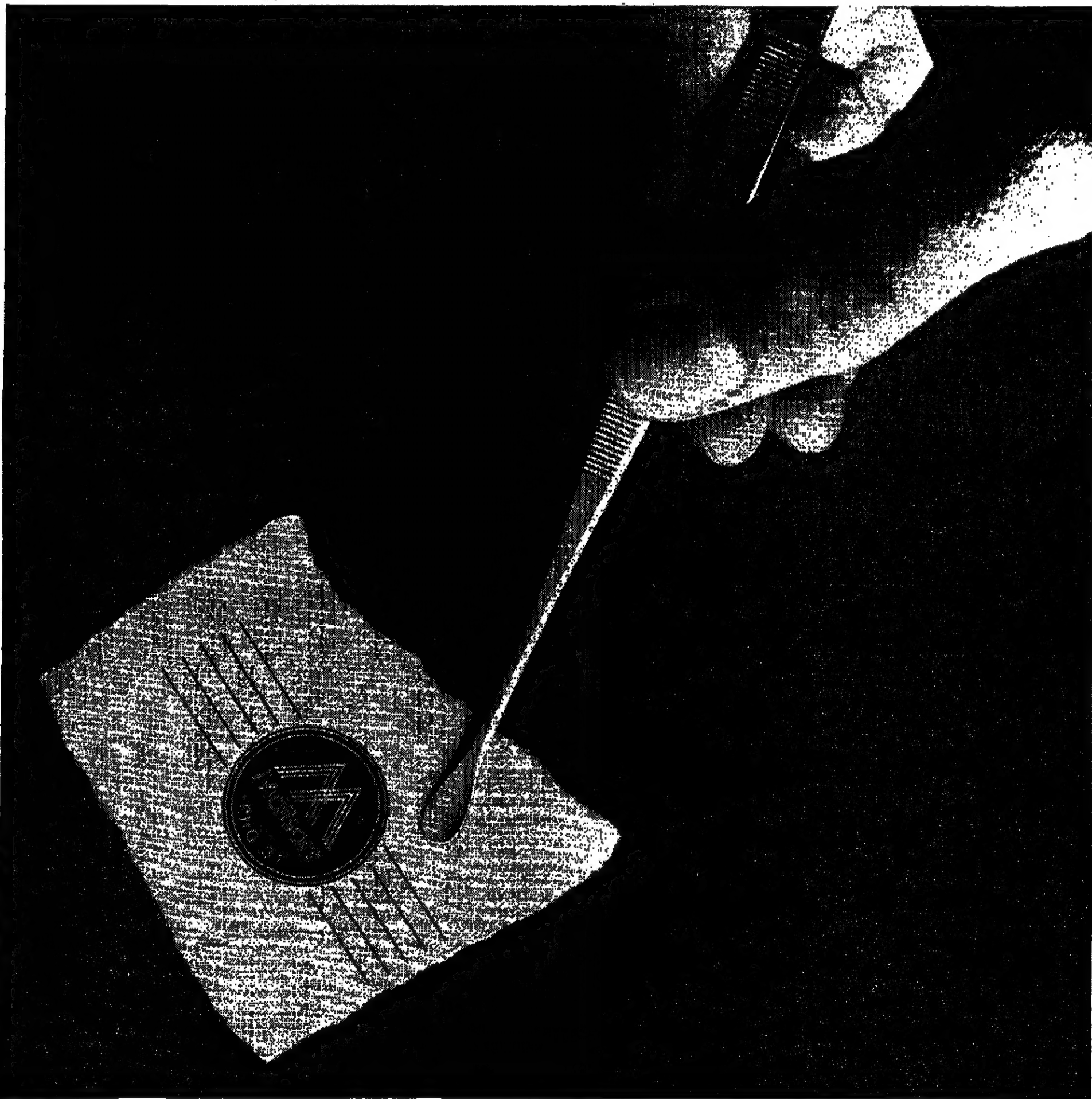
A much more likely candidate for official anxiety is the possibility of a mortgage crisis. If ministers thought they saw an emerging problem, they might be prepared to risk somewhat higher inflation.

They would argue that the monetary pressure had still to be applied, but that it would have to be "phased." The pain (as measured by the rate of increase of interest charges) could not be allowed to become too intense. Every now and then, money would have to be injected into the system to help lift property prices and to keep the volume of transactions ticking over.

If that is why the authorities are behaving in so bizarre a monetary fashion, it implies a squeeze that is going to be more protracted than envisaged, but less acute. It means the improvement in the economy will take longer and that the near-term deterioration in the gilt market is going to be greater than thought. However, we must maintain last autumn's negative posture — 13 per cent yields at the long end cannot be ruled out.

Roger Nightingale

Smith New Court



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P. Bouchard
Assistant Secretary
MONTREAL, Quebec,
February 22, 1990

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BUSINESS

MONDAY MARCH 12 1990

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8185 (-0.0345)

W German mark
2.7588 (-0.0772)

Exchange index
86.6 (-2.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1763.8 (-10.4)

FT-SE 100
2234.3 (-20.5)

USM (Datastream)
145.72 (-3.19)

Saatchi face UK downturn

Saatchi & Saatchi, the troubled advertising group, is facing a downturn in its main British advertising communications division this year.

UK advertising, which last year accounted for about 15 per cent of profits, is expected to see a 1 per cent revenue fall according to Saatchi, although some analysts see 3 per cent.

The decline will put pressure on margins and may have been a factor in the recent warning that profits would not meet analysts' forecasts by Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive.

Pressure has been mounting on the Saatchi brothers before tomorrow's annual meeting as the group needs to reduce its debt by about £250 million.

The group is selling its management consultancy, of which Hays, the largest, is expected to fetch more than £50 million, with about £50 million for the rest.

A group of rebel shareholders, including Mr Joseph Marciano, a French financial analyst, has been threatening to criticize the board on its management. The shares closed at 139p on Friday, against a 1988 high of 456p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.10
Austria Sch	20.30	19.00
Belgium Fr	66.30	66.40
Canada C	1.95	1.95
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.40
Finland Mk	6.82	6.42
France Fr	0.72	0.72
Germany DM	2.25	2.15
Greece Dr	254	258
Hong Kong \$	10.50	10.40
Ireland P	1.09	1.02
Italy Lit	2140	2010
Japan Yen	320	314
Netherlands Gld	3.33	3.05
Norway Kr	11.16	10.50
Portugal Esc	200	200
South Africa Rd	4.60	4.20
Spain Ptas	163.50	171.50
Sweden Kr	10.50	9.90
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.35
Turkey Lira	4400	2800
USA \$	1.70	1.65
Yugoslavia Dnr	195	185

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 119.5 (January)

EC to agree development bank for East Europe

From Michael Biayon
Brussels

European Community finance ministers will today approve plans to set up a new bank for Eastern Europe. They will also debate a request by the EC for a substantial increase in its budget over the next three years to cover emergency aid for Eastern bloc countries.

Financial experts met in Paris at the weekend to negotiate the draft statutes for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, including its constitution, a weighted voting system for share-

holders and the complex issue of Soviet participation.

But ministers must today tackle the two main issues still unresolved: the bank's location and its first president. Britain is lobbying hard for the headquarters to be in London, and Mr John Major, the Chancellor, will present his colleagues with a glossy brochure outlining the advantages of the City. He will insist that London already has a wealth of expertise and close banking links with Eastern Europe.

The Bank, a French initiative agreed by the 12 EC member states

at the Elysée Summit on Eastern Europe last November, will be the main channel of international aid to that region. It is due to be established next month, and could begin lending by the end of 1990.

EC members are to hold at least 51 per cent of the shares, but the US is expected to be the largest single shareholder. The Soviet Union will also be allowed to hold up to 8 per cent of the shares, but ministers will today attempt to set a ceiling on Soviet borrowing. They do not want the massive needs of its failing economy to soak up all the funds. The bank's capital will

probably be denominated in European currency units — though this could be a problem for the US, which will have to seek a dollar sum from Congress. Britain, which argues that the bank should not be used for state projects, but to encourage private enterprise, is reluctant to allow the Russians access to much of the money, believing that Moscow has not yet fulfilled the criteria for multi-party democracy and for a market economy.

Nor does Britain want the EC as a whole to hold a large block of shares, saying individual members

should contribute the capital and have a decisive say in the bank's running.

The bank is expected to employ up to 1,000 people when fully operational. Bids to host it have been received from at least a dozen cities, including Amsterdam, Brussels, Luxembourg and Copenhagen.

Ministers today will also debate proposals by the European Commission to raise the EC budget over the next three years by more than 2 billion ecus (£2.71 billion). Much of this money will be earmarked for Eastern Europe, with about 500

million ecus to be spent this year, \$50 million next year and a billion in 1992.

The Commission also wants to increase aid to Latin America and the Mediterranean countries to keep regional assistance in balance. But while poorer EC members favour plans to raise spending on several internal policies, including transport and the environment, wealthier northern countries are taking a harder line. They say all spending, other than that on Eastern Europe, could have been foreseen and there is no justification for an increase now.

BAe poised to sign \$1 bn Romania deal

By Paul Martin

British Aerospace is set to sign a long-term aircraft production deal with Romania, estimated to be worth at least \$1 billion over the next decade.

The company said it would be the largest technology transfer deal in civil aviation.

"In terms of turnover, I suspect it will put even the McDonnell-Douglas deal with China in the shade," said Mr Garry Bishop, BAe's projects director. The contracts are expected to be signed before the end of April.

News of the impending deal was revealed by *The Times* by two senior Romanian cabinet ministers, Mr Victor Stanculescu, the Industry and Planning Minister, who has just taken over the defence portfolio, and Mr Aurel Stoica, who is in charge of mechanical industry and aviation.

They have been in London for talks with leading British companies on re-energising their country's economy. Mr Stanculescu said: "Romanian

companies will have complete freedom to deal directly with British companies."

Mr Bishop said the project is designed to produce 10 BAC-111/500s a year in Romania. They will carry updated avionics and be powered by the Rolls-Royce Tay engine. The bulk will be for export but some will be allocated to Tarom, the local airline.

"The deal will be simple: Romania's contribution is its labour, or manufacturing capability," Mr Bishop said. Financing for the project is to be raised primarily from British, Japanese and American sources.

Seven BAC-111s have been produced in Romania since 1982, but, according to Mr Stanculescu, the project had become virtually moribund "because of the failure on the Romanian side to keep promises."

British Aerospace had been frustrated by lack of decision-making, and by poor management at middle and upper level, but had been

satisfied with the shop floor workers.

With a new government taking shape after the revolution, BAe is convinced the business climate has radically altered. "It has made us extremely optimistic. Without a change of attitude and a change of approach [the project] was going nowhere," said Mr Bishop.

"At one BAC-111 a year, you don't have an aircraft industry. We are building up under the new deal to 10 aircraft a year — to start with. If the project is to be successful, we will have to look beyond that."

Mr Stanculescu said Romania is planning to become a leading producer of spare parts and also a base for repairs to the world's fleet of BAC-111s, of which 220 are already in operation.

BAe is understood to be cautious on this, but Mr Bishop added the Romanians already have a repair facility for certain Soviet aircraft, which could be expanded.

New circuit for CEEB papers



Mr John Baker, chief executive designate of National Power, prepares for the flotation of the electricity industry, due this year. This morning, Mr Baker will hand over two years of CEEB

paperwork on privatizing the power-generating industry to Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy. The papers document the handover of the CEEB to National

Power and PowerGen, the two new generating companies, Nuclear Electric and the National Grid. The assets of the CEEB will be officially transferred to the new private companies on March 31.

GM secures East German contract

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

General Motors — maker of Vauxhall cars — has secured a joint venture deal which will allow assembly of more than 150,000 cars a year in East Germany.

It has signed an agreement with Automobile Works Eisenach (AWE).

GM said in January that it

had agreement for a £91 million development to build 100,000 engines and 15,000 cars annually in Hungary, making it one of the biggest players in the redevelopment of Eastern Europe.

GM proved one of the most successful companies in Western Europe with Mr Robert

Eaton, the European president, saying that it could have sold 100,000 more cars but for a lack of production capacity.

Eisenach could fulfil that need by providing more Opel cars, and possibly Vauxhalls, for sale back into the West if GM can raise output in the joint venture with AWE.

Building societies face loss of £5bn a year from tax change

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

Building societies' retail receipts could fall by £5 billion a year as a result of independent taxation, which comes into force on April 6, according to research carried out by UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker.

The report says that smaller building societies are most vulnerable to losing funds. This is because savers who do not require a large accessible branch network are most likely to switch to other investments like offshore accounts and National Savings to take advantage of gross-paid interest.

An outflow of funds could force smaller societies to look for larger partners with which

to merge, unless tax rules are changed in the Budget.

Under independent taxation married women will have a totally separate tax allowance from their husbands.

Smaller societies cannot afford to set up offshore subsidiaries as larger societies are doing.

The Bradford & Bingley offers gross-paid interest to British residents through its Isle of Man subsidiary and the Britannia plans this month to do the same. The Bristol & West announced last week that it plans to buy a Guernsey bank and the Halifax has a Jersey branch, which converted into a subsidiary com-

pany could pay interest gross.

The clearing banks, which rely less on retail receipts, all own offshore vehicles which will gain from the implementation of independent taxation, says the report. But they could still lose £2 billion of retail receipts, it claims.

The main beneficiary is likely to be unit trusts. These could see net receipts increasing by more than 75 per cent. "In 1989 total net receipts were £3.9 billion and in 1990 we would expect this to be at least £7 billion."

Investment groups are launching cash-based unit trusts, which invest in bank and building society accounts to

take advantage of the tax changes. These pay interest with basic rate tax deducted which can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers.

National Savings and gifts were likely to benefit from 15 per cent of funds withdrawn from banks and societies.

Mr John Wrigglesworth, of P&D, said: "Smaller societies have it tough enough already without the unfair effects of independent taxation on them... If it [the Government] does not make a change in the Budget there is a danger that cowboy outfits without the safety and weight of building societies and banks behind them could attract funds."

Thompson to become B&C chairman

Sir Peter Thompson, the retiring chairman of NCF, the transport and distribution group, is to chair British and Commonwealth, the ailing financial services group.

He is a near neighbour in north London of Mr John Gunn, the present chairman who will step down to the chief executive's post.

It is expected Mr Peter Goldie, who stepped down as chief executive recently, will leave the group.

Tempus, page 39

Charter buy

Charter Consolidated is buying out through its wholly-owned Anderson group the minority 48.5 per cent stake in National Mine Service Company in the US at \$8.75 a share, valuing the transaction at \$21 million.

The original offer of \$8.5 a share had been increased following negotiations with the special committee of NMS's board.

Pound pressure grows in week before Budget

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

The pound today enters the last week before the Budget facing a foreign exchange market bent on testing how far it will fall while the Government remains politically inhibited from raising interest rates.

Bearish sentiment for the pound and gilt last week sent the Bank of England's trade-weighted index down to 86.8 at the close on Friday.

Mr Nigel Richardson, who is UK economist at Warburg

Securities said that the downward pressure on the pound reflected a market looking for a political risk premium.

Mr Richard Jeffrey, senior economist at Hoare Govett, the broker, expects sterling to reach new lows in the months ahead, falling to \$1.50 and DM2.50, compared with Friday's New York finish of \$1.61 and DM2.75, before recovering at the year-end.

Laura Ashley warns of future debt problems

By George Sivell

Laura Ashley, the fashion and interior decor retailer, has warned bankers of deteriorating financial circumstances.

Two banks supporting a £75 million loan facility sought the Bank of England's guidance last week. It is understood the Bank encouraged continued lending.

Laura Ashley warned all 14 banks in the syndicate that a future breach of its covenants was possible. But it denied

yesterday that the warning was connected with high borrowings against an asset base to be diminished by forthcoming writedowns.

The company said just before its January year-end that it would suffer a loss for the full 12 months of about £3 million, against £20 million pre-tax profits the year before.

Borrowings are understood to be £80 million, virtually matching shareholders' funds.

Pathé zooms in on European media groups to help its \$1.2bn offer

Maxwell seen as backer for MGM bid

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, is believed in Hollywood to be one of four Europeans with media interests who has been approached to help fund the \$1.2 billion takeover of MGM United Artists Communications.

The bid, launched on Wednesday, by Pathé Communications — formerly the Cannon Group — the small independent film-maker, which is now owned and run by Signor Giancarlo Parretti, an Italian financier, has been greeted with financial scepticism among some film industry executives and Wall Street analysts.

Signor Parretti took control of Cannon almost two years ago, boasting that he wanted to spend \$1 billion buying MGM and \$800 million buying other film and television com-

panies. Since then, he has bought nothing.

It is understood that, besides Mr Maxwell, the Hachette group of France, Signor Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's leading film and television businessman, and Polygram, the Dutch record group, have been approached.

Pathé has three more days to prove it can come up with the money. Before starting its tender offer for MGM shares on Wall Street this Wednesday, Signor Parretti must file every detail of the proposed financing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the share dealing watchdog.

Signor Parretti needs to prove he is worth almost \$2 billion. He needs \$1.2 billion in cash to meet his \$20-a-share term for the ordinary and

preferred MGM shares, \$400 million to take on MGM's last-stated debts and \$400 million as working capital to fund this year's film making.

Pathé's assets are estimated at \$655 million. The company made a \$50 million loss in the first nine months of last year compared with a \$20 million profit in the whole of 1988.

His own officials estimate Signor Parretti could raise almost \$1 billion from asset sales. Of this, between \$200 and \$500 million would come from the sale of property in Spain and cinemas throughout Europe. Cannon used to own a third of all British cinemas.

He could raise a further \$600 million selling MGM's coveted film library. The favoured buyer for the lib-

rary is rival studio Warner Brothers. Pathé said it could not comment on any of the approaches to the media groups, but sources close to Signor Parretti say he is aware he would be the laughing stock of Hollywood if his bid collapses. Other film executives say it would also be embarrassing for Mr Kirk Kerkorian, who owns 72 per cent of MGM shares, can influence a further 10 per cent and has been trying to sell the studio for two years.

MGM has asked Pathé for a \$200 million non-refundable deposit in four \$50 million instalments as a sign of good faith. The \$50 million was paid last Friday, the next is due on April 9.

But Wall Street is still unconvinced. Pathé can find the money.

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